

ST JOHNS MAR THOMA CHURCH UK

England & Wales · Charity number 1203763

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-06-27

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 80-96 Cambridge Road
Hounslow
TW4 7BH

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Website <https://stjohnsmtc.org.uk/>

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION

Activities: We are a Mar Thoma church based in Hounslow, offering Sunday services, spiritual activities, and outreach programmes

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£234,729	£161,559	-	-
2024-03-31	£241,455	£147,665	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anil Kalathil Mathew		2025-04-01
Benoy Koshy Thomas		2025-04-01
Philip Kureekkaparampil John		2024-04-01
Rev Shanu Varikkanikuzhiyil Abraham		2026-05-01
Samuel Daniel		2024-04-01

ST JOHNS MAR THOMA CHURCH UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1203763

Accounts

St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK

Charity Registration Number : 1203763



**MEMBER OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND
MEMBER OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRITAIN & IRELAND
68th YEAR OF MAR THOMA COMMUNITY FORMATION IN UK**

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31st MARCH 2025

2024 - 2025

ST JOHNS MAR THOMA CHURCH UK

(Charity Registration No. 1203763)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024 – 2025

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ST JOHNS MAR THOMA CHURCH UK
29th ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2025

1. Introduction

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we present this annual report, we give thanks to God for His unfailing grace and guidance over the past year. St. Johns Mar Thoma Church UK, continues to stand as a living witness of the Gospel—a vibrant community of faith rooted in the rich traditions of the Mar Thoma Church and shaped by the hope we have in Christ.

This year has been one of continued growth, reflection, and service. As a diaspora parish, we are uniquely placed to uphold the values of our faith while engaging meaningfully with the cultural and spiritual landscape of the United Kingdom. Through worship, fellowship, mission, and outreach, we seek to nurture a Christ-centred community that reflects God's love both within and beyond the walls of our church.

We remain committed to the motto of the Mar Thoma Church: 'Lighted to Lighten', to build up one another in faith, and to participate in God's redemptive work with humility and joy. With hearts full of gratitude, we now look back on this year's journey—its blessings, its challenges, and its moments of grace.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

On behalf of the Executive committee , we assure you that financial statements have been prepared with integrity, transparency, and in full compliance with applicable charity regulations.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, the determined to interpret this responsibility as requiring them to follow current best practice and prepare the accounts according to the FRS 102 SORP 2015.

In particular, charity law requires the Trustees, if they prepare accounts on an accruals basis, to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to-

- To prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed , subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with regulations made under the charity legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the Independent Examiner in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that , on the face of the report, there are no material inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

1.1 Reference and Administrative information

Charity Name St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK

Charity Registration Number 1203763

Operational Address 80-96 Cambridge Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW4 7BH

Trustees & Executive Committee

Vicar / President	Revd. John Mathew Charivil
Vice President	Mr. Philip Cherukara Thomas (Resigned - February 2025)
Secretary	Mr. Philip Kureekkaparampil John
Trustee - Finance	Mr. Binu Sam
Trustee - Accounts	Mr. Samuel Daniel
Lay Leaders	Mr. Biju Mathews & Mr. Subin Baby

Mr Aaron Alexander	Mr. Abin Varghis	Mr Abraham Pathinettil Thomas	Mrs. Aleyamma Cherian
Mr. Binu Thomas	Mr. Gijo Jacob Cherian	Dr. Hitesh Mathew (From January 2025)	Mr. Isaac George (Resigned – December 2024)
Mrs. Jessy Mathew	Adv. Jacob Poovathumannil Abraham	Dr. John Thomas	Mr. Jose Chacko
Mr. Kottackal George Joseph	Mrs Lincy Elizabeth Philip	Mr. Mridul Thomas	Mr. Nigel Koshy
Mr Puliyelethu Mathai Mathew	Mr. Saji Varghese	Mr. Sam Cheeran	Mr. Shibu Abraham
Dr.Suresh Samuel	Mr. Sunny Abraham Valiyakalayil		

Internal Auditors

Mr. Mathew Samuel, Dr .Jansen Jacob

Health and Safety Officer & Building Manager

Mr. Philip Cherukara Thomas (Resigned – February 2025)

Independent Examiner

Fairfax Tax and Accounts Limited, 9 Stoughton Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4DS.

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc, 210 High Street, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1DL.

1.2 Governing Document

From 1st July 2023, the church has operated as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) under a newly adopted constitution. This reflects our commitment to aligning with UK charitable standards, while continuing to remain under the ecclesiastical framework of the Constitution of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, Kerala, India.

1.3 Risk Management

The Executive Committee have, from time to time, examined the significant operational risks that the parish faces and confirms that systems have been established to enable regular review of steps that can be taken to reduce these risks. Risk management is reviewed and discussed at Executive Committee meetings. A Health and Safety Policy has been adopted and is updated and maintained.

1.4 Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

We have adopted a policy based on the requirements of the Children Act 1989, which is monitored and reviewed annually. DBS checks are carried out on all individuals responsible for children's activities.

1.5 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

In compliance with the requirements, St Johns Mar Thoma Church established a GDPR policy in April 2018 and updated it in 2021. All trustees have been briefed on the regulation and their responsibilities to ensure compliance with the procedure.

1.6 Reserves Policy

The charity maintains cash reserves carried forward from year to year, typically equivalent to at least six months' expenditure. These reserves represent a prudent minimum to ensure the continued and orderly operation of the charity, even in the face of fluctuating donations. They also provide a foundation for future development and expansion. As of 31st March 2025, our free cash reserves stands at an excess of £100,000. Thus the charity has cash reserves to meet the expenditure of six months or more as per the policy. The current cash balance is higher than usual, as funds have been set aside for the planned purchase of a new church property.

2. Parish

The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar traces its origins to the pioneering evangelistic efforts of St Thomas the Apostle, who arrived to India in AD 52. The Church is renowned for its illustrious heritage and possesses a complement of twelve Bishops, indicative of its high standard of ecclesiastical hierarchy. The supreme head of the Church is the Most Revd. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan and the headquarters of Mar Thoma Church is located in Thiruvalla, a city in the southern state of Kerala, India, which is known for its cultural and religious significance.

The Mar Thoma Church, rooted in the apostolic faith and reformed tradition, is organized into 14 dioceses worldwide, each overseen by a Diocesan Bishop and comprised of numerous parishes. In the United Kingdom, the Mar Thoma community has been active since 1957, when believers first gathered for worship and fellowship.

St. Johns Mar Thoma Church UK, was established in 1996 as a continuation of this pioneering community and has since grown into a vibrant parish. It is officially registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in the United Kingdom, bearing the registration number 1203763, and is located at 80–96 Cambridge Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW4 7BH. The parish functions under the leadership of the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa, currently shepherded by the Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Revd. Dr. PD. Joseph Mar Ivanios.

2.1 Mission & Objectives

The primary aim of St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK, is to propagate the Christian faith through the conduct of consistent Christian worship services in accordance with the traditions of the Mar Thoma Church. The church serves as a meaningful spiritual and community platform for the migrant community from the state of Kerala, India in the United Kingdom, offering compassionate pastoral care and spiritually enriching activities. The church integrates the liturgical heritage of the ancient Eastern tradition with the pastoral and missional needs of a modern, multicultural British society. Moreover, the parish endeavours to foster ecumenical relationships within the local community and other churches, while also making benevolent contributions towards evangelistic and charitable initiatives both in the United Kingdom and internationally.

2.2 Membership

The Vicar maintains a parish register of all members. All persons above 18 years, who have their names on the parish register, receive Holy Communion in the Parish and whose parish membership has not been barred are entitled to be Edavaka Sangham members (General Body of the Parish). As of 31st March 2025, our parish membership encompasses around 275 active families consisting of around 900 members. Within the reporting period, about thirty new families have been enrolled into the Parish, and we extend a cordial welcome to these new members to the fellowship of St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK.

2.3 Appointment of Trustees/Executive Committee

The trustees/executive committee members are annually elected prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. They are elected either by the General Body or by the constituents of the organization that they represent, or alternatively, may be nominated by the Diocesan Bishop. The appointment of Trustees is in accordance with the constitution and upholds high standards of governance.

Mr. Isaac George representative of the Guildford prayer group resigned in December 2024 was succeeded by Dr.Hitesh Mathew in January 2025.

Mr. Philip Cherukara Thomas, Vice president resigned in February 2025.As the Vice president for the new financial year had already been elected , no replacement was appointed for the interim period.

2.4 Day to Day Management

The trustees/executive committee meet regularly, while the day-to-day management of the Charity is delegated to the Vicar, Secretary, Treasurer, and Accountant, reflecting a commitment to good governance and a high standard of operational excellence.

2.5 Vicar and President Revd. John Mathew Charivil

Revd. John Mathew Charivil has been serving as the Vicar and President of St. Johns Mar Thoma Church since 1st May 2023. He brings with him a wealth of pastoral experience, having served as Vicar in several Mar Thoma parishes across Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Notably, he also held the esteemed position of the General Secretary of the Mar Thoma Church's youth wing, the Yuvajana Sakhyam.

He is supported in ministry by his wife, Mrs. Blessy John Mathew, and their daughters, Miss Aardra John Mathew and Miss Achshah John Mathew, all of whom actively contribute to the parish's spiritual and organisational life.

In addition to his role as Vicar, Revd. Charivil was appointed as the Diocesan Secretary of the newly formed UK-Europe-Africa Diocese in January 2024.

We pray that the continued service of Revd. John Mathew Charivil and his family will be a blessing to our parish, the diocese, and the wider community in the years to come.

3. General Body & Executive Committee Meetings

The administrative operations and mission-driven initiatives of the parish are overseen by the Executive Committee, which includes the Trustees and upholds high standards of governance and accountability. All decisions are made in consultation with, and subject to the approval of, the General Body. Each resolution is carefully reviewed to ensure alignment with both the

CIO Constitution and Constitution of the Mar Thoma Church. Final approval is granted by the Diocesan Bishop.

The Executive Committee began the financial year with a dedication service and retreat, reaffirming their commitment to the parish. An induction training was also part of the retreat held on the 16th June 2024 with participation from both outgoing and incoming committee members and their families. Over the year, the current committee convened seventeen times, ensuring timely and effective decision-making for the smooth functioning of the parish.

The General body meetings were held five times in the financial year. The meeting held on 23rd February 2025 elected the Office Bearers and Internal Auditors of St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK, for the financial year 2025-2026.

The following were elected as Trustees and Internal Auditors for the 2025 – 2026 financial year.

Vice President: Mr Anil Kalathil Mathew

Secretary: Mr Philip Kureekkaparampil John

Trustee Finance: Mr. Benoy Koshy Thomas

Trustee- Accounts: Mr Samuel Daniel

Lay Leader: Mr Subin Baby & Mr Varughese Vazhakunnathu Mathew

Internal Auditors: Mr. Saji Varghese & Mr. Binu Sam

3.1 Parish development committee

On 14th July 2019, the Annual General Body Meeting convened and passed a resolution to explore the feasibility of acquiring a new property to address several challenges faced by the parish, particularly limitations in space capacity. Under the leadership of the convenor, Mr. P. M. Mathew, the committee continued its efforts in this regard. Following a further resolution passed at the General Body Meeting on 14th July 2024, the parish is now in the process of selling the current property at 80-96 Cambridge Road, Hounslow, TW4 7BH, and proceeding with the purchase of the URC Church in Weybridge Queens Road, Weybridge KT13 9UX.

3.2 Internal Auditors

Mr. Mathew Samuel and Dr. Jansen Jacob served as internal auditors for 2024–2025, reviewing financial statements, policy documents, and providing key guidance.

4. Financial Statement

The financial statement for the year 2024–2025, reviewed by the internal auditors, is included in this booklet. During this financial year, the charity recorded a total income of **£234,729** expenses of **£161,559** and a surplus of **£73,170**.

5. Worship Services & Activities for the year 2024 – 2025

By God's grace, we were able to carry out all the required worship services, sacraments, and fulfil the church's mission and ministry responsibilities during the year. This has strengthened and enriched the spiritual life of our faith community.

5.1 Sunday services

Regular Sunday services were held each week alternating between Malayalam and English languages. Special services were also held for occasions like Zonal Sunday, Edavaka Mission

Sunday, Education Sunday, Sevika Sangham Day, Youth Sunday, Choir Sunday, Senior Citizens Day, Family Sunday, and World Sunday School Day. Prayers were also offered on Remembrance and Ecumenical Sundays. These events were well attended and helped strengthen our sense of faith, fellowship, and community.

5.2 Mid-week worship services

We continued to offer the following regular midweek worship services throughout the year, providing meaningful opportunities for prayer, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

5.2.1 Chain Prayer

Every Tuesday, a chain prayer is held from 5:00 am to 7:00 pm, with approximately 40 dedicated members participating. Each member is assigned a specific time slot to ensure continuous prayer throughout the day. Prayer requests are regularly updated, offering comfort and support to the congregation. Mrs. Saramma George has faithfully served as the coordinator for this ministry.

5.2.2 Online Sandhya Namaskaram via Webex

Launched during the COVID lockdown, this online evening prayer session has grown into a valuable spiritual practice. Held every Thursday at 8:00 pm, each 45-minute session includes a devotional song, evening worship, Bible reading, and a brief message from the Vicar. It offers a refreshing midweek pause for spiritual reflection. The Edavaka Mission coordinated this service, ensuring a well-structured and uplifting experience for all participants.

5.2.3 Fasting Prayer Meeting via Webex

Our Friday fasting prayer meeting, held weekly at 10:30 am, is a 90-minute session where members gather in faith to worship and intercede for the needs of the community. The meeting also features a short Bible study led by our Vicar, offering deeper insight and guidance from the Word of God. The Sevika Sangam continued to coordinate this service, ensuring it is a meaningful and organized experience for all.

5.2.4 Lay Ministrants and First Holy communicants training

The parish introduced a training programme for lay ministrants and first holy communicants. The initiative is intended to deepen understanding of the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith and the liturgical practices of the Mar Thoma Church. The programme is open to all parish members aged 13 and above, irrespective of gender. Training sessions are conducted weekly on Wednesdays at 8:00 PM via Webex.

5.3 Passion Week Services

The Mar Thoma Church upholds the tradition of observing fifty days of Lent before Easter and twenty-five days of Advent before Christmas. These seasons are devoted to prayer, meditation, and fasting, as they are considered vital for spiritual growth. This year, Passion Week services were held at the church with active participation from the congregation.

5.4 Baptism

The following have become official members of our parish and the larger Christian community after the Holy sacrament of Baptism. This momentous occasion marks their formal initiation into our congregation, signifying their inclusion in the fold of faithful believers.

1. Aiswarrya P.K – 13/06/2024
2. Emiline Joji – 24/06/2024

3. Isabel Ann Mathew- 21/11/2024
4. Sharon Maria Sijo- 15/01/2025

5.5 Marriage

During the reporting year, the sacrament of Holy Matrimony was solemnized, marriage banns were published, and No Objection Certificates issued for the following individuals. The parish extends its blessings and best wishes for a joyful and blessed married life.

1. Mr. Jerry Shaji Mathai and Miss. Aiswaryya P.K, August 2024
2. Mrs. Nanma Anna Sajan and Mr.Daumatias Dagys, November 2024

5.6 Housewarming

During this year several of our members have acquired new homes and the house blessing services have been conducted.

6. Special Event

Inauguration of the UK-Europe-Africa Diocese – Episcopal Visit.

As part of the inauguration of the UK-Europe-Africa Diocese, the parish had the great privilege of hosting the Metropolitan, His Grace The Most Revd. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma , along with the Suffragan Metropolitans Rt. Revd. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos, Rt. Revd. Dr. Joseph Mar Barnabas and also Rt. Revd. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos, Rt. Revd. PD Dr. Joseph Mar Ivanios on 28th September 2024. The visit was a moment of great joy and spiritual significance for our parish. The bishops were warmly welcomed, and the occasion was a time of meaningful fellowship celebrating this historic occasion and our shared commitment to the growth of the Diocese.

7. Activities for the year

7.1 Parish Day

We have held special thanksgiving service for Parish Day on Sunday, 14th April 2024.

7.2 Parish Convention

The Annual Parish Convention was held from May 24th to 26th, 2024. We were honoured to have Evangelist Mr. Joy Pullad as our guest speaker, who shared powerful messages from the Word of God, inspiring and renewing the spiritual lives of all who attended. The convention served as a meaningful time of reflection, growth, and fellowship. The singing sessions, led by members of *St. John's Voice*, were a highlight of the convention, enriching the worship atmosphere and uplifting the hearts of the congregation.

7.3 Parish Picnic

A parish picnic was held on August 31st, 2024, at the scenic Black Park Country Park, Wexham, Buckinghamshire, SL3 6DS. The event brought together around 80 participants of all ages,

creating a joyful and vibrant atmosphere. The picnic was jointly organized by the Youth Fellowship, Senior Citizens' Fellowship, and Edavaka Mission.

Attendees enjoyed a variety of fun-filled activities including cricket, football, lemon and spoon race, pass the parcel, sweet picking, and more. A traditional *pothichoru* lunch was served, followed by Kerala snacks during afternoon tea — a much-loved highlight that added a nostalgic and cultural touch to the day. The event was an opportunity for fellowship and relaxation for all the participants.

7.4 Youth Conference

A Youth Conference was held from September 6th to 8th, 2024, at Juniper Hall in Dorking, with around 50 participants taking part in the three-day event. The theme of the conference was *Mathetes* — a Greek word meaning *Discipleship and Discipline* — which guided the reflections, discussions, and activities throughout the weekend.

Revd. Merin Mathew, Vicar of St. Andrew's Mar Thoma Church, Edinburgh, led the sessions, providing spiritual leadership and insight. Mr. Meldon Merby served as the convenor, whose meticulous planning and dedication ensured a smooth and meaningful experience for all. We express our gratitude to Mr. Isaac George, Dr. Jansen Jacob, Dr. Elenza Jacob, Mrs. Joji Samuel, and our Kochamma Mrs. Blessy John Mathew, who stayed with the youth throughout the weekend, offering care, supervision, and guidance.

A sincere thank you to all parents who assisted—those who stayed onsite, those who ensured timely drop-offs and pick-ups—and to every volunteer who worked diligently behind the scenes.

7.5 Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest Festival was held on the 14th and 15th of September 2024 and served as a joyful occasion of celebration and thanksgiving to God for His abundant blessings. The event featured auctions and a food sale, through which we were able to raise a total of **£20,550**. The event was coordinated by Mr. Philip C. Thomas, Dr. John Thomas, Mr. Biju Mathews, and Mrs. Aleyamma Cherian, whose dedicated efforts contributed greatly to the success of the event.

7.6 Kerala Day

Kerala Day was celebrated on Sunday, 6th October 2024, following the Holy Communion Service. This cherished tradition provided an opportunity for the parish community to honour their rich cultural heritage and reflect on their roots in Kerala. As usual, the major highlight of the celebration was the traditional *Ona Sadhya*, featuring 26 authentic items, which was joyfully served to over 270 attendees within just two and a half hours. The event also included a vibrant cultural talent show, featuring a *Nadan Vallam Kali* performance and a fashion show—both of which reflected the beauty and diversity of Kerala's traditions. Special appreciation is extended to the convenors, Mr. Saji Varghese and Mrs. Lincy Philip, for their coordination and dedication in making the event a memorable one.

7.7 Badminton Tournament

The St. Johns Mar Thoma Church Badminton Tournament was held on 12th October 2024 at Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre, Park Road, Hemel Hempstead. As in previous years, the tournament served as a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and friendly competition among members of Mar Thoma parishes across the UK. Over 60 players from various sister

parishes participated, making the event both lively and engaging. The church extends its sincere thanks to Kenn Exports (Mr Koshy Thomas) for sponsoring the overall trophy. Appreciation also goes to the convenors from the Youth League—Mr. Daniel Soby and Mr. Nidhin Philip—as well as the executive committee representatives, Mr. Kottackal George Joseph, Mr. Abin Varghis, for their dedicated efforts in organizing the event in a smooth and blessed manner.

7.8 VBS

This year's Vacation Bible School was held on October 19th, 20th, and 26th, 2024, with the theme *GO PRO*, based on 2 Timothy 2:15. Through engaging activities such as Bible stories, crafts, music, and games, children were encouraged to embark on a journey to discover God's Promise, God's Protocol, and God's Providence. Approximately 80 children participated, supported by a dedicated team of 20 teachers and 25 volunteers who ensured the smooth and meaningful execution of the program. Miss Glanet Ann Varghese from Canterbury Mar Thoma Church and Mr. Abel James from St. Johns served as the VBS leaders this year. The church expresses heartfelt gratitude to the convenors, Mr. Joji Abraham and Mrs. Jessy Mathew, for their committed leadership, as well as to all those who contributed to making the VBS a spiritually enriching and successful event.

7.9 Cake Sale

The annual Cake Sale, organized by the Sevika Sangham, was held on 1st December 2024. A wide variety of homemade cakes, cupcakes, cookies, and various traditional Kerala snacks were generously prepared and contributed by members of the congregation. These items were eagerly received and sold out within minutes. Through the enthusiastic participation and generosity of all involved, the event raised £4,220. A portion of the proceeds was donated to Shaftesbury, a children's charity (formerly Livability), extending the event's impact beyond the parish. The church records its sincere thanks to all who baked, purchased, or supported the event in any form. Special appreciation is extended to the convenors—Mrs. Bibi Abraham, Mrs. Rengy Varughese, and Mrs. Sheeba Philip—for their coordination and dedication in making the event a successful one.

7.10 Parish Carol Service

The Parish Christmas Carol Service was held on Saturday, 14th December 2024, and was a joyful and spiritually uplifting celebration of the birth of Christ. As in previous years, the St. Johns Choir made the evening memorable with their flawless rendition of melodious and timeless carols, creating a deeply worshipful atmosphere. Canon Revd. Dr. Joshva Raja John, Head of International Bible Advocacy centre London served as the chief guest and shared the Christmas message, reminding the congregation of the true essence of Christmas—God's everlasting love. The service featured live presentations from the Choir, Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, Edavaka Mission, and Sevika Sangham. The church extends its appreciation to all Choir members and to the Choir leaders—Mr. Abraham K. Thomas, Mr. Shaun A.K. Thomas, and Choir Secretary—Mrs. Lincy Philip—for their dedication and leadership in making this year's Carol Service a truly blessed occasion.

7.11 Heathrow Immigration Removal Centre, Harmondsworth- Carol Service

As part of its ongoing outreach mission, the church held a Christmas Carol Service at the Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre on 15th December 2024. Essential items and stationery were donated and handed over to the detainees with the help of the prison chaplain, Revd. Patrick Wright. The St. Johns Choir sang heartfelt carols and presented a short narration, bringing comfort and joy to those attending. Revd. John Mathew C shared a brief Christmas message, reminding everyone of the hope and love of Christ. The service concluded with a small reception, where church members shared drinks and snacks with the detainees. This outreach reflected the church's commitment to sharing God's love with those in difficult situations. Thanks goes to everyone who was part of this great ministry.

7.12 Year End Services

As part of the year-end services, an online *Dhyana Yogam* was held on the evenings of 29th and 30th December via Webex. The sessions were led by Revd. Nishad Isaac Chandy, Vicar of the Immanuel Mar Thoma Church of South Africa, and provided a meaningful time of reflection and renewal. The year concluded with a Thanksgiving and Watchnight Service with Holy Communion, held at the church on the evening of 31st December, as the congregation came together in worship and gratitude to welcome the new year.

7.13 Family Fellowship session

On Sunday, 9th March, a special session was conducted during the Sunday service by the Family Fellowship. Mr. Jitto David Chittapalli, Secretary of the Youth and Migrant Commission of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain, addressed the congregation on the topic of *Marriage and Family*. His talk explored a broad range of spiritual and practical challenges faced by modern families, offering valuable insights and guidance. The session was well-received and served as a meaningful contribution to the ongoing efforts to strengthen family life of members within the parish.

7.14 Family Retreat

The 2025 Family Retreat was held on 15th March at The Langley Heritage Primary School, with around 130 members in attendance. The retreat was blessed with the presence of the North American Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Revd. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos, who served as the chief guest. He shared a powerful message on the importance of nurturing family life with intention and consistency, reminding participants that a glorious beginning does not always ensure a glorious end. The children's session was led by Mr. Ernest Abraham and Mrs. Mary Simon from Sinai Mar Thoma Church, who also conducted engaging games and activities after lunch. The retreat proved to be a spiritually enriching and joy-filled experience for all who attended.

7.15 Youth Convention

From 29th to 30th March, the Youth Fellowship hosted its first-ever Youth Convention at St. John's Mar Thoma Church. Revd. Reji Easow, Vicar of the Holy Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Nottingham, served as the main speaker. Centred on the theme "*Pathway to Purpose*," the convention explored how young people can discover their God-given calling by aligning their talents with God's will. The sessions highlighted the importance of balancing self-determination with faith, and embracing a life marked by trust, sacrifice, and obedience to Christ.

The convention was organized and led by the church's youth, providing them with a valuable opportunity to take on leadership roles fostering a deeper sense of purpose and

responsibility within the parish. Church extends its thanks to all the youth fellowship members for the organisation and participation.

8. Visiting Clergy and Other Speakers

The church was fortunate to have the following guests and parish members who inspired us through their messages:

Metropolitan, His Grace The Most Revd. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan, the Suffragan Metropolitans Rt. Revd. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos and Rt. Rt. Revd. Dr. Joseph Mar Barnabas, Rt. Revd. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos, Rt. Revd. PD Dr. Joseph Mar Ivanios, Rt Revd. Dr Abraham Mar Paulos , Canon Revd. Joshva Raja John ,Revd. Merin Mathew, Revd. Reji Easow, Revd. Stanley Mathew John, Revd. Soju M Thomas , Revd. Bibi Mathew Chacko, Revd. Saju C Samuel, Mr Joy Pullad , Mr Arun Alexander , Miss Keziah Marie Royce , Mrs Alice John, Dr Daliya George.

9. Area Prayer Groups, Prayer Meetings and Holy Communion Services

The parish has ten active prayer groups, each with representation in the Executive Committee. Regular meetings include Bible study, discussions, intercessory prayers, and songs in both English and Malayalam languages. Many groups feature a 'Thought of the Day' shared by the host family, youth, or children, along with quizzes that encourage participation across all age groups. Bible readings are done by both children and adults. Special gatherings are arranged in times of bereavement to support grieving families.

A new prayer group was established in the **Hillingdon** area this year, meeting on alternate first Saturdays.

Regular Holy Communion services are held in the following areas:

- **Oxford** – First Saturdays and third Sundays
- **Reading** – Second Sundays
- **Bedford** – Fourth Saturdays

Area	Meeting schedule	Area Representative
Guildford	Second Friday of the month	Mr. Isaac George <small>(Resigned Dec 2024)</small> Dr. Hitesh Mathew <small>(From Jan 2025)</small>
North London	Third Saturday of the month	Mr. Shibu Abraham
Oxford	Third Sunday of the month	Mr. Abraham P. Thomas
Slough	Fourth Friday of the month	Mr. Saji Varghese
South East	Second Saturday of the month	Mr. Sam Cheeran
Staines	First Sunday of the month	Mr. Binu Thomas
Stevenage	Fourth Saturday of the month	Mr. Jose Chacko
West London	Second Saturday of the month	Mr. Gijo Jacob Cherian
Basingstoke	Alternate first Saturdays	Mr. Mridul Thomas
Reading	First Friday of the Month	Mr. Abin Varghis

10. Auxiliary Organisations and Activities

All the organisations of the parish actively carried out their mission and activities throughout the year, meeting either in person or virtually as needed.

10.1 Edavaka Mission

The Edavaka Mission plays a vital role in spreading the Gospel and coordinating mission-related activities within the Parish. Operating under the guiding principle that "Every Marthomite is an evangelist," the organization actively promotes various initiatives, including intercessory prayer and Christian fellowship.

Sandhya Namaskaram has been conducted every Thursday evening, led by the Achen. The service begins with an opening hymn and follows the format of the church *Kauma*. The Bible study sessions over the past year focused on the books of Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy, and 1 and 2 Thessalonians. These sessions were led by the Achen and concluded with prayer. Approximately 18 families regularly attended, with members of the congregation also taking leadership roles in the service.

Each Sunday, intercessory prayer sessions were held before the main worship service. These sessions, led by congregation members, provided a meaningful opportunity for the church community to come together and pray for the needs of the church, individuals, and global concerns. Mrs. Sheeba Philip coordinated these gatherings on behalf of the Edavaka Mission.

The annual convention took place from May 24th to May 26th, 2024, with Evangelist Joy Pullad serving as the guest speaker. The theme of the convention was based on 2 Chronicles 7:14: *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* Musical worship was led by the St. John's Men's Voice, and intercessory prayers were conducted by members of the Edavaka Mission.

As part of the parish Christmas Carol Service, members of the Edavaka Mission and congregation performed a skit directed by Mr. Alexander Renjith Joseph. In the spirit of Christmas, members of the Edavaka Mission visited Harmondsworth Care & Custody on December 12th, 2024, offering gifts and fellowship to the inmates.

Mr. P. J. John and Mrs. Sheeba Philip served as Vice-President and Treasurer, respectively.

Dr.Suresh Samuel , Secretary

10.2 Sunday School

Sunday school classes were held regularly every Sunday. During the year, tests are conducted to check and enhance children's understanding of scripture and the history of the Mar Thoma Church. On the 1 September 2024 Education Sunday was celebrated where the Sunday school president addressed the teachers and children. A special offertory was taken for the "Light to Life" project. Teachers submitted their covenant forms as part of the Education Sunday service. The Sunday school children participated in the celebration activities of the Diocesan inauguration service on the 29 September 2024.

VBS was held on the 19, 20 and 26 October 2024. The children were engaged in exciting activities including Bible stories, crafts, music, games and more, all designed to help them grow in their faith and build lasting friendships. We are thankful to Mr Joji Abraham

(Convenor) who along with a large number of teachers and volunteers made this VBS a success.

World Sunday School Day was celebrated by all the London Centre Parishes on the 2nd November 2024. This event was hosted by St Peters Mar Thoma Church at the Campion School premises in Hornchurch. Our Sunday school children and teachers actively participated in this event with children presenting a 10-minute programme.

Children who did exceptionally well in their Diocesan exams in July 2024 received prizes to acknowledge their commitment to learning the word of God. 69 children from St Johns took part in the Diocesan Sunday School exams held in July 2024, of which 14 children received "A+", 10 children "A" and 19 children "B" grades.

On the 3rd November World Sunday School Day was celebrated in St. Johns using the order of worship provided by the Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam. The children were involved in various aspects of the Holy Communion service on that day, including the sermon. Children from our Sunday school also participated in the "Operation Christmas Child programme" of Samaritans Purse UK on the 3 November 2024. Children brought in their gifts in decorated shoe boxes, for children affected by wars and natural calamities from around the world. Children were also given prizes for their achievements in the previous academic year.

The Sunday school also participated, in the Parish Carol service by presenting a musical nativity skit. In Q4 of 2024, an enhanced DBS check was completed for all teachers and supporting staff of the Sunday School. Some teachers of the Sunday School participated in the "London Centre Teachers retreat" organised on the 25 January 2025 hosted by the Sinai Mar Thoma Church at All Saints Church in Harrow.

A Talent Quest was held on the 16 February 2025 under the leadership of Dr Daliya George. Children took part in various activities such as singing, drawing & colouring, memory verse recitation, storytelling, bible reading and elocution. It was truly a showcase of the various gifts in our children. We are extremely grateful to God's guidance and provision in all the activities of the Sunday school, this year.

Mrs Jessy Mathew , Secretary
Mrs Valsa Sarah Oommen ,Headteacher

10.3 Youth Fellowship

The St. Johns Mar Thoma Church Youth Fellowship, with 61 registered members, experienced a spiritually vibrant year marked by faith-driven events and active engagement. Led by President Revd. John Mathew C and Youth Secretary Mr. Aaron Alexander, the year began with a meaningful Youth Inauguration addressed by Revd. Subin Mathew.

One of the highlight of the year was the Youth Conference held at FSC Juniper Hall, coordinated by Mr. Meldon Merby and spiritually led by Revd. Merin Mathew, focusing on the theme "Mathetes: Identity in Christ." The Youth Convention, led by Revd. Reji Easow, encouraged deeper reflection on divine purpose.

The Fellowship also hosted a Badminton Tournament , coordinated by Mr. Daniel Mathew and Mr. Nidhin Philip. Our Youth members led Youth Sunday service with full liturgical

participation, and contributed a moving musical presentation during the Carol Service organised by Miss Reeba Alexander and Mrs. Litty Simon.

The Youth Worship Group, under the leadership of Mr. Isaac George and Dr. Jansen Jacob, consistently led praise and worship on the 4th Sunday of each month. Mr. Vinod Thomas and Mr. Mathew Samuel also supported the group by providing training on several occasions.

Youth members also contributed to VBS, Harvest Festival, and technical service projection (coordinated by Mr. George Kottackal, Miss Reya Varughese, and Mr. Nidhin Philip), all while balancing their academic responsibilities. The Fellowship concludes this year with gratitude to God and committed to growing in unity, purpose, and Christ-centred service.

Mr Aaron Alexander, Secretary

10.4 Sevika Sangham (Women's Auxiliary)

The Sevika Sangham, comprising of all women in the Parish aged 18 and above, continues to be a vibrant and spiritually enriching fellowship. We thank God for his continued grace and guidance throughout the year, enabling us to serve faithfully and grow spiritually within this vital ministry. Regular meetings were held on the first and third Sundays of each month after the worship service. In addition, fasting prayer sessions took place every Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, incorporating worship through songs and scripture reading. The annual Sevika Sangham Conference was held on August 24th at Carmel Mar Thoma Church, Liverpool. Five members from the Parish participated in the conference's quiz competition and secured second place, reflecting their dedication and preparation.

Sevika Sangham Day was celebrated on September 9th, with members actively participating in the worship service, led by the Vicar, and offering a special song. On September 29th, members took part in the Diocesan Inauguration demonstrating their ongoing engagement with the wider church community. The Sangham also played a key role in the organisation and support of the Harvest Festival on September 14th and 15th, contributing to both its spiritual and communal aspects.

A cake sale organised on December 1st raised £4,220 with a percentage of proceeds supporting Shaftesbury a Children Charity, the Church Development Fund, and the Sevika Sangham Fund. Members also participated in the Parish Christmas Carol service with a choreographed dance performance and continued their weekly service of organising refreshments every Sunday. The Parish expresses heartfelt gratitude for the tireless efforts and dedication of the Sevika Sangham members throughout the year.

Mrs. Aleyamma Cherian, Secretary

10.5 Young Family Fellowship

The Young Family Fellowship for 2024–2025 arranged a spiritually enriching session organized on the 9th of March 2025, led by Mr. Jitto David Chittapalli. Drawing deeply from Scripture, he spoke on the theme of obedience and God's provision in times of suffering. He emphasized that Jesus submitted to the Father's will through obedience and reminded families that God has set us free so that we may worship Him. Jitto encouraged those gathered by affirming

that the Lord knows our condition and suffering, and just as He provided for the Israelites, He will faithfully provide for each family in their journey. We thank Jitto and family for the time spent with the church.

The Bible Quiz was conducted on the 6th of April 2025, featuring questions from the Book of Judges and the Gospel of Luke. The event encouraged family-based learning and engagement with Scripture. The winners were Kevin Easaw and Family, Biju Mathews and Family, and Sam Daniel and Family. We are thankful to the vicar, secretary and trustees for their help and guidance.

Mr. Kottackal George Joseph, Secretary

10.6 Senior Citizens Fellowship

Older members of the parish forming the Senior Citizens Fellowship met during the year on a bimonthly basis at the church on Wednesdays and spent the day in strengthening their bond and mutual support. The time during the morning was used for discussion of the theological issues that forms the basis of our faith thus developing a deeper understanding of the faith. The lunch is a fellowship in itself as it is more of a bring-and -share type of home cooked meal which helped the interaction among members. The afternoons were spent in social, cultural or creative activities. Discussions were often continued through e-mails or telephones between the meetings. The groups' commitment to ongoing communication and engagement ensured that the members remained connected and supported. Members continued to participate in the various activities of the parish and often played a leading role in them. Senior members took the leading role on the Senior citizens Sunday worship held during the Year.

Dr John Thomas , Secretary

10.7 Choir

With God's divine grace, the St. Johns Church Choir has continued to be a vital part of the worship life of the parish, consistently enhancing services through their musical offerings and faithful participation. The choir currently consists of 48 registered members representing a range of age groups, contributes harmoniously to the worship experience. Attendance is regularly maintained for both worship services and choir practices.

Throughout the year, the choir took the lead in Sunday services as well as on special occasions, supporting the liturgy with heartfelt singing and musical leadership. Several key events marked the choir's ministry during this reporting period:

- **Choir Picnic:** On 6 May 2024, the choir members enjoyed a delightful picnic at the church, participating in fun, games and fostering good fellowship.
- **DSMC Sunday:** On Sunday, 2 June 2024., Choir Dedication Sunday was celebrated, and various members of our choir actively assisted in the worship service and Bible readings.
- **Diocesan Inauguration:** Our choir members represented our choir and participated in the Zonal choir at the Diocesan Inauguration event in Birmingham on 29 September 2024.

Christmas events

- **Parish Christmas Carol Service:** Held on 14 December 2024, this much-anticipated event featured the choir presenting a selection of carols, creating a joyful and

worshipful atmosphere. The service was blessed with a meaningful Christmas message delivered by the chief guest, Canon Revd. Dr. Joshva Raja John.

- Outreach Carolling: Representatives from our choir visited the Heathrow Immigration Removal Centre on 15 December 2024 and rendered Christmas Carols, proclaiming the good news of hope and life in our saviour and redeemer Jesus Christ.
- Diocesan Christmas Carol Service: The choir also took part in the Diocesan Carol Service held on 4 January 2025 at Coton Green Evangelical Church, Tamworth.

The Choir acknowledges the support of the Vicar and President, Revd. John Mathew C, in all choir-related activities. We are blessed to have a committed team to lead and guide our church choir.

Mrs Lincy Philip , Choir Secretary

11 Missionary & Charitable Activities

St. Johns Mar Thoma Church continued its commitment to supporting missionary and charitable initiatives, both within the local community and internationally. Financial aid was primarily directed towards individuals in need of medical care, educational support, and housing assistance. Funds were mobilized through various parish-led efforts, including the Harvest Festival, Renounce the Taste and Spread the Flavour (Lenten Tithe), Uposhanavara Dharma Sekharam, Fasting Offertory, Prayer Group collections, voluntary donations, and cake sales. In addition, the parish contributed to the rebuilding efforts in Wayanad, Kerala, an area significantly affected by heavy rains and landslides.

11.1 Neighbourhood Mission

We as a church are deeply honoured to lead the *Olive Branch* project in partnership with Holy Trinity Church, Hounslow, and Hounslow Evangelical Church. This initiative is a vital outreach effort aimed at supporting the homeless community in and around Hounslow. Operating from Thursday to Saturday each week, the project provides essential services including hot meals, shower and laundry facilities, new clothing, and access to housing and counselling support.

Mr. Kottackal George Joseph has served as the project coordinator, playing a pivotal role in managing and guiding the initiative with dedication and compassion. The church expresses heartfelt thanks to all parish members for their generous support throughout the year.

Contribution towards various Charitable causes	Amount (£)
Olive Branch Hounslow - Neighbourhood Mission Project	7719
Supporting - Hope Church Food bank, Wayanad Relief work, Prison Ministry	7780
Light to Life Project, India - to support Education and Development of less privileged Children – Sunday School Children initiative	900
Prayer group supporting Charity with special needs Learning disabilities	1495
Sevika Sangham - Supporting children's charity , Individuals with urgent needs	4875
TOTAL	22769

12 Mandalam and Diocese

12.1 Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam

The Mar Thoma Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam 2023–24 convened from September 17 to 20, 2024, at the Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Metropolitan Memorial Auditorium in Thiruvalla, under the leadership of the Most Revd. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan. Among the key decisions made this year were the approval of the 2023–24 annual report and financial statements, and the passing of the 16.6 million GBP(189.85 crore rupees) budget for 2024–25. A significant highlight was the adoption of 110 out of 112 proposed constitutional amendments, including landmark decisions to increase women's representation from 20% to 33% and to expand the council representation of evangelistic members from 2 to 5. The proposed amendment to set a bishop retirement age of 80 was withdrawn after careful deliberation. Another important development was the formal approval of the constitution for the newly established UK, Europe, and Africa Diocese. Our parish was represented by our Mandalam representative Mr. Sunny Valiyakalayil and Vicar Revd. John Mathew C.

12.2 Parish activities in the Diocese

The Parish actively participated in various initiatives organized by the UK-Europe-Africa Diocese throughout the year. Parishioners engaged fully in diocesan events and gatherings, demonstrating a strong commitment and unity. The Parish had the privilege of hosting the Diocesan Assembly meetings twice this year, underscoring its central role in diocesan affairs. Members also supported the Diocese through generous contributions to offertories and special collections. Mr. P.M. Mathew and Adv. Jacob P. Abraham served as Assembly members and played leadership roles in various diocesan activities throughout the year, which were great blessing to the community.

13.Ecumenical Relationships

This parish represents the Member Churches of Churches Together in England (CTE) and Churches Together in Britain & Ireland (CTBI) through the Council of Mar Thoma Parishes in Europe (UK-Europe Zone). We actively maintain strong relationships with local authorities and organizations. As a member of Hounslow Friends of Faith, our Vicar and parishioners regularly attend meetings on behalf of the congregation. We also engage in ecumenical fellowship with Episcopal Churches and participate in various joint meetings.

14.Website & Programme Diary

The website for St John's Parish, hosted at <http://www.stjohnsmtc.org.uk/>, offers information on upcoming programs and events. On 30th December 2024, the parish released a digital programme diary, carefully prepared by Lay Ministrants Mr. Biju Mathews and Mr. Subin Baby, in collaboration with the Vicar. The diary provides a clear overview of service dates, the lectionary, and the individuals assigned to readings and service roles.

15.Acknowledgements

The Executive Committee express their gratitude to our Metropolitan, The Most Revd. Dr Theodosius Mar Thoma, and the Episcopal Synod for their benevolent support towards the advancement of our Parish. We are particularly appreciative of the leadership, counsel, and backing provided by our Diocesan Bishop Rt Revd. Dr . PD. Joseph Mar Ivanios and pray that his leadership will be a blessing for the UK-Europe-Africa diocese in the years to come.

Our special thanks are extended to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishop of Kensington of the Church of England for their continuous patronage. Also acknowledge and thank the Government of His Majesty and the London Borough of Hounslow for their valuable assistance during the reporting year.

We express our sincere appreciation for the invaluable guidance of the office bearers, internal auditors, convenors of various programs, secretaries of auxiliary organizations, and prayer groups. We also acknowledge the unwavering support of all members, whose prayers and generous contributions have greatly strengthened the Parish throughout the year.

Special appreciation is extended to Mr. Kottackal George Joseph, Mr. Anish P. Tom, and Mr. Alexander Renjith Joseph for their technical expertise, assistance with liturgy projection, and guidance in conducting services effectively. Their efforts in training our youth to assist with projection during Sunday services are greatly valued.

We gratefully acknowledge Mr. Mathai Oommen for his selfless service in ensuring church facilities are well-prepared and in order every Sunday. Also extend thanks to Dr. John Thomas who do not hesitate to apply his DIY skills as and when required for the benefit of the church community.

16. Closure of old Charity Registration

All formalities related to the old charity registration (No. 1060532) were completed, and the charity was officially closed with the Charity Commission this year.

17. Conclusion

As we conclude this annual report, we give thanks to God for sustaining our parish through another meaningful year. Like any journey of faith, this year has brought its share of challenges. Differences of opinion, moments of tension, and the realities of growth have, at times, tested our unity. Yet through it all, the steadfast prayers, commitment, and collective efforts of our members and wider faith community have been vital in carrying forward our shared mission. While we are grateful for the progress made, we also remain mindful of the path ahead—guided by faith, strengthened through fellowship, and committed to serving with humility and love. May we continue to grow as a Christ-centred community, faithfully shining His light wherever He leads us.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee / Charity Trustees.



Revd. John Mathew Charivil
Vicar & President



Philip K John
Secretary

ST JOHNS MAR THOMA CHURCH UK

Charity Number 1203763

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the charity on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

I report to the Trustees on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the "Act"), the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (effective January 2015), adapted to meet the needs of Charitable Incorporated Organisations, and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP) effective January 2015, under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 23.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As described on Trustee's report, the charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that there is no requirement in the governing documents of the charity for the conducting of an audit. As a consequence, the Trustees have elected that the financial statements be subject to independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under any legal provision, or otherwise, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- a) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- b) follow the procedures in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and;
- c) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Examiner's Statement and scope of work undertaken

I conducted my examination in accordance with the General Directions issued by the Charity Commission for England & Wales, under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, setting out the duties of an Independent Examiner in relation to the conducting of an Independent Examination. An Independent Examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and of the accounting systems employed by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning such matters. The purpose of the examination is to establish as far as possible that there have been no breaches of charity legislation and that the financial statements comply with the SORP, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and information supplied by the Trustees in the course of the examination is not subjected to audit tests or enquiries, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements, and in particular, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity, and my report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the Independent Examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtained written assurances from the Trustees of all material matters.

Independent Examiner's Statement, Report and Opinion

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above, in connection with my examination, I can confirm that :-

This is a report in respect of an examination carried out under section 145 of the Act and in accordance with any directions given by the Commission under subsection (5)(b) of that section which are applicable;

and that no matter has come to my attention in connection with my examination 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 Charities Act 2011;

ST JOHNS MAR THOMA CHURCH UK

Charity Number 1203763

when preparing accounts on an accruals basis under s132 of the Charities Act 2011, to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and the 2015 Regulations setting out the form and content of charity accounts;

that the financial statements be prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective January 2015)

I have no concerns and in my opinion not come across any matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in my report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached;



Jitender Kaur - Independent Examiner

Chartered Accountant

Faith House
Main Street
Little Stretton
Leicester
LE2 2FS

This report was signed on 05/06/2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds			Restricted funds	Total Funds March 2025	Total Funds March 2024
		General funds	Designated funds	Total			
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Income from:</u>							
Subscription and Donations	5,6 &12	158,136	9,716	167,853	25,842	193,694	237,666
Other Activities-Fundraising Events	5 &13	10,275	14,495	24,770	-	24,770	29,611
Investments - Bank Interest		16,265	-	16,265	-	16,265	7,089
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income		184,676	24,211	208,888	25,842	234,729	274,366
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
<u>Charitable Activities</u>							
Church running costs	15	112,095	18,435	130,530	6,760	137,290	158,228
Other Charitable Activities	14	392	11,608	12,000	10,768	22,769	31,814
<u>Other</u>							
Independent Examiner's Fees		1,500	-	1,500	-	1,500	2,190
Total Expenditure		113,987	30,043	144,030	17,528	161,559	192,232
Net Income/(Expenditure)		70,689	(5,832)	64,857	8,313	73,170	82,134
Transfer between funds							
Capital Expenditure	8	1,982	(1,982)	-	-	-	-
Others	5	(33,420)	33,420	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		39,251	25,606	64,857	8,313	73,170	82,134
Reconciliation of Funds:							
Total funds brought forward		442,358	427,453	869,811	63,261	933,072	850,938
Total funds carried forward		481,609	453,059	934,668	71,574	1,006,242	933,072

The charity's income and expenditure relate to continuing operations.

The charity has no gains or losses for the year ended 31st March 2025 other than those shown above.

The surplus for the year comprising of net incoming unrestricted fund & restricted fund equals £73,170 (2023-24: £82,134)

All figures in the accounts are in decimals but shown rounded off for presentation purposes. Any difference in the totals is due to rounding off effect.

Notes 1 to 16 on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK

Charity Reg. No. 1203763

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS	2	313,411	324,279
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at Bank & in hand	11	678,858	609,127
Sundry Debtors/Prepayments	3	15,472	1,465
		694,331	610,592
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors: Amount falling due within 1 year	4	1,500	1,800
NET CURRENT ASSETS		692,831	608,792
NET ASSETS		1,006,242	933,072
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Unrestricted funds			
- General funds		481,609	442,358
- Designated funds	5	453,059	427,453
		934,668	869,811
Restricted Fund	6	71,574	63,261
		1,006,242	933,072



Binu Sam
Treasurer



Rev. John Mathew C
Vicar & President



Samuel Daniel
Accountant

Notes 1 to 16 on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and are prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" [Charities SORP (FRS102)] and Charities Act 2011.

Incoming Resources.

Donations, grants and other forms of voluntary income are accounted within the accounting year. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations and legacy are recognised when the income is received.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with the administration of the charity.

Resources expended include attributable VAT that cannot be recovered.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible Fixed Assets other than Freehold Land are stated at cost less depreciation. From 2014-15, the Freehold Property has been re-classified as Freehold Land valued at £100,000 and Building (balance value). No depreciation has been charged on Freehold Land.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets at the following rates to write off the cost of assets, over the useful expected life as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 25% on written down value
Building	- 2% on cost
Freehold Land	- Nil

Funds

General Funds represents those funds that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the charity. The balance represents the unexpended resources held within the fund.

Designated Funds are part of Unrestricted funds, that have been set aside for specific purposes by the trustees. These purposes are set out in the note 5.

Restricted Funds are those funds which must be spent for specific charity purposes as specified by the donor (Refer note 6).

Notes to the accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2025

2 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

	Note	Freehold Land £	Building £	Equipment & Furniture £	Total £
Cost					
At 01 April 2024		100,000	418,756	153,731	672,488
Additions	8	-	-	1,982	1,982
Disposal		-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025		100,000	418,756	155,713	674,470
Depreciation					
At 01 April 2024		-	210,394	137,814	348,209
Charge for the Year		-	8,375	4,475	12,850
Relate to disposal		-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025		-	218,769	142,289	361,059
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2024		100,000	208,362	15,917	324,279
At 31 March 2025		100,000	199,987	13,424	313,411

3 PREPAYMENTS/ADVANCE

Building & Motor insurance
Property transaction expense to be capitalised on completion

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
	1,608	1,465
	13864	-
	15,472	1,465

4 CREDITORS: AMOUNT FALLING WITHIN ONE YEAR

i) Sundry Creditors

Accruals
Independent Examination charges

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
	-	-
	1,500	1,800
	1,500	1,800

Notes to the accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2025

5 DESIGNATED FUNDS

The accumulated unrestricted funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of general funds by the trustees for the specific purposes.

	Balance as at 01 Apr 2024	During the current year				Balance as at 31 Mar 2025	
		Transfers from General funds	Collections/ Proceeds	Utilised			Net Movement
				Capital Expenditure	Other Expenditure		
Vicar's Transfer (incl. Visa) Fund	6,436	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	11,436
Church Car Fund	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	20,000
Church Improvement Fund	1,291	2,000	300	1,982	-	318	1,609
Church Development Fund	300,000	18,508	-	-	1,350	17,158	317,158
Conference Fund	5,495	-	-	-	-	-	5,495
Reserve / Contingency Fund	30,000	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	35,000
Vicar's Ex-Gratia Fund	2,301	2,300	-	-	-	2,300	4,601
Harvest Festival-Special Projects	42,798	(5,138)	10,275	-	5,833	(696)	42,101
Choir	459	250	225	-	441	33	492
Edavaka Mission	513	-	-	-	-	-	513
Youth League	1,533	2,500	6,008	-	8,915	(407)	1,126
Family Fellowship	214	100	-	-	100	-	214
Sevika Sangham	12,110	400	2,440	-	5,550	(2,710)	9,400
Sunday School	456	2,500	3,134	-	5,316	318	774
VBS	3,848	-	1,830	-	2,538	(708)	3,140
	427,453	33,420	24,211	1,982	30,043	25,606	453,059

- a) Vicar's Transfer Fund - for the expenses incurred incl. visa costs for Vicar and his family upon their transfer to and from the United Kingdom.
- b) Church Car Fund - this fund provides for the planned replacement of Church car in future.
- c) Church Improvement Fund - provides for cost of major renovation/improvement to the Church premises and towards capital expenditure.
- d) Church Development Fund - set aside towards Church development including purchase of land and/or worship place and/or vicarage.
- e) Conference Fund - set aside for meeting any shortfall in hosting Diocesan Conference, when we are the host Parish.
- f) Reserve / Contingency Fund - set aside for meeting the church running cost in case of an emergency.
- g) Vicar's Ex-Gratia Fund - amount set aside for the Vicar and payable when he completes his term in the UK.
- h) Harvest Festival-Special Projects - Funds for Special Projects from Harvest Festival Collections. The outstanding balance will be used for Gadchiroli Project (once their FCRA account is operative) & other special projects in the coming years.
- i) Choir, Edavaka Mission, Youth League, Family Fellowship, Sevika Sangham, Sunday School & VBS are internal organisations/programmes of the church and funds are transferred from the General Funds to cover shortfall between budgeted income and budgeted expenditure.

6 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance as at 01 Apr 2024	During the current year			Balance as at 31 Mar 2025	
		Transfers from General funds	Collections	Utilised		Net Movement
CHARIS-Fasting offertory/RTT	14,687	-	3,324	2,886	438	15,125
CHARIS - Special Collections	400	-	6,388	6,388	-	400
Raceessa/Lent Fund	4,674	-	780	-	780	5,454
Prayer Group Collections	-	-	1495	1,495	-	-
Special Collection	5,250	-	-	-	-	5,250
Collection (Diocese)	301	-	6,820	6,760	60	361
New Church Property Purchase	37,950	-	7,035	-	7,035	44,985
	63,261	-	25,842	17,528	8,313	71,574

- a) Fasting offertory/RTT Cover -funds are used to meet the specific needs of individuals or organisations outside the church who are in dire financial need. It covers broadly three areas i) Educational Aid ii) Medical Aid iii) Other Miscellaneous Aid for the needy.
- b) CHARIS - Special Collections during the year included donations for help to Wayanad landslide victims
- c) Raceessa is collected from individual members and paid to the parent church as membership fee (Raceessa) of the parent church and Lent fund (Uposhanavaram) is collected during Lent and is used by the parent church towards Orphanages and Destitute Homes (Homeless). The outstanding balance will be used once the FCRA account is operative & for other special mission projects in the coming years.

Notes to the accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2025

- d) Prayer Group Collections are collections made by Area Prayer Group members, to support various church and charitable activities.
- e) Special Collection during the year was NIL.
- f) Collection (Diocese) are contributions made from our members and remitted to UK, Europe & Africa Diocese.

7 LOAN

There was no loan amount outstanding as at 31st March 2025.

8 ANALYSIS OF ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS DURING THE YEAR

The following assets were bought and capitalised during the year.
the total spent was £1,982 as detailed below:

Asset description	Cost (£)
a) Church - Drum Set for Youth Worship	824
b) Church - 2 x Laptops	1,158
Total	1,982

9 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Unrestricted Fund

Tangible Fixed Assets
Current Assets
Less: Current Liabilities

Restricted Fund

Total Net Assets

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	313,411	324,279
Current Assets	622,757	547,332
Less: Current Liabilities	(1,500)	(1,800)
	934,668	869,811
Restricted Fund	71,574	63,261
Total Net Assets	1,006,242	933,072

10 Sundry Expenses

- i) CRB Check Expenses
- ii) Travel Expenses (Vicar emergency travel & Diocesan Bishop GB visit)

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
i) CRB Check Expenses	-	282
ii) Travel Expenses (Vicar emergency travel & Diocesan Bishop GB visit)	2,093	-
	2,093	282

11 MOVEMENT IN CASH BALANCE

Notes

Opening Cash Balance

Net surplus /(deficit)
Depreciation
(Increase)/decrease in debtors
Increase/(decrease) in creditors
Capital expenses
Closing Cash Balance

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Opening Cash Balance	609,127	518,923
Net surplus /(deficit)	73,170	82,134
Depreciation	12,850	13,734
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(14,007)	450
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(300)	(480)
Capital expenses	(1,982)	(5,634)
Closing Cash Balance	678,858	609,127

Notes to the accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2025

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
12 SUBSCRIPTION, DONATIONS ETC. - GENERAL FUND		
Subscription from Members	64,961	66,837
Other Donations/Collections	6,347	9,881
Various Offertories	47,810	48,809
Gift Aid	39,018	35,994
	158,136	161,521
13 INCOME FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES - FUNDRAISING EVENTS		
Harvest Festival - Special Projects DF	10,275	12,495
Harvest Festival - Others	10,275	12,495
Cake Sale Collections RF/DF	4,220	4,620
	24,770	29,611
14 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE AND EVANGELICAL ACTIVITIES		
Charity - Harvest Festival DF	5,833	12,175
Charity - Sevika Sangam and Sunday School DF	5,775	2,700
Special Offertory Donations RF	2,886	945
Charity + Evangelism (Special Collections) RF	7,883	14,515
Other Charitable Activities	392	1,479
	22,769	31,814
15 CHURCH RUNNING COSTS		
Vicar's Salary	34,097	30,773
Parsonage & Bishop Suite Expenses	6,865	11,917
Visa & Vicar Transfer/Ex Gratia DF	-	12,717
Church Utilities/Repairs/Insurance/Legal	20,065	26,232
Motor Expenses incl. Lease Costs & Insurance	8,101	9,120
Special Events Expenses	4,572	5,280
Diocese/Sabha Office	6,536	5,900
Visiting Speaker Expenses	2,100	1,850
Convention & Family Retreat	1,804	3,627
Printing, Stationery, Telephone etc	3,549	3,564
Bank Charges	638	870
Depreciation	12,850	13,734
Church Organisation Expenses DF	17,085	12,439
Church Development Expenses DF	1,350	1200
Regional Events/Conference	3,238	3,523
Diocese Dues Collection from members, paid RF	6,760	6464
Sundry/Altar/Harvest Expenses/Ordination Ceremony	2,550	2,193
	132,160	151,403
Special collection from Members		
Fellowship Events Expense	5,130	6,825
	-	-
	5,130	6,825
	137,290	158,228

16 TRUSTEES REMUNERATION, EXPENSES & DONATIONS

No remuneration or any other financial benefit, either directly or indirectly was paid or is payable out of the funds of the charity to any of the trustees or to any persons known to be connected with the charity except for the Vicar, who is expressly permitted to receive remuneration for his services, as per his employment contract (note 15 above) and housing at the Church Vicarage valued at £19,600 p.a.

During the Year ended 31st March 2025, the total amount re-imbursed to the Vicar was £5023 towards business travel, car fuel, local conveyance, postage, stationery etc.

During the year, the total expenses reimbursed to 1 other trustee towards expenses incurred for and on behalf of the Charity amounted to £451.89

Internal Audit Report of St Johns Mar Thoma Church, UK

To the Members of St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK

We have examined the attached Financial Statements including the Balance Sheet, Statement of Financial Activities and the related Income and Expenditure and Receipt and Payments Accounts of the Church for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2025.

Our responsibility as Internal Auditors is to express an opinion on the Financial Statements the preparation of which is the responsibility of the Trustees.

All the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary, for the audit purposes were made available to us.

In our opinion, based on the information received and the explanation provided to us, the Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the Church as at 31st March 2025.

Signature: 
Dr Jansen Jacob (May 25, 2025 20:48 GMT+1)

Email: jansenjacob@gmail.com

Dr. Jansen Philip Jacob
Internal Auditor

Signature: 
Mathew Samuel (May 26, 2025 21:59 GMT+5.5)

Email: matthewieme@yahoo.com

Mr Mathew Samuel
Internal Auditor

Dated: 25/05/2025

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus

Philippians 4:4-7



80 - 96 Cambridge Road, Hounslow,
Middlesex, TW4 7BH

ST JOHNS MAR THOMA CHURCH UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1203763

Accounts

St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK

Charity Registration Number : 1203763



UK - EUROPE - AFRICA DIOCESE OF THE MAR THOMA CHURCH

MEMBER OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND

MEMBER OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRITAIN & IRELAND

67th YEAR OF MAR THOMA COMMUNITY FORMATION IN UK

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDING 31st MARCH 2024

2023 - 2024

ST JOHNS MAR THOMA CHURCH UK

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 9 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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ST JOHNS MAR THOMA CHURCH, UK
28th REPORT FOR 9 MONTHS ENDING 31st MARCH 2024

1. Introduction

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:4-5.

The church is a congregation of God's chosen people, united by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and invigorated by the divine presence of the Holy Spirit to take part in God's redemptive mission to reconcile all of creation to Himself. As a "counter-cultural community," the church functions in a state of "dialectical tension" with the secular world, embodying a distinctive way of life that challenges the values and assumptions of society at large. Its members are set apart as a holy people, called to serve God's purposes and to act as a "royal priesthood," mediating His love and grace to the world. A parish, in turn, represents a sacred gathering where the faithful convene to express their gratitude, deepen their connection with Christ and His Church, and foster a caring and affectionate community through the practice of worship and sacraments. Indeed, it is through the grace of God Almighty that we are able to witness Christ's message and share His boundless love with others.

It is with immense joy and fervour that we present the report of the activities of St John's Mar Thoma Church, UK on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

We wish to assure you, with utmost sincerity and transparency, that the financial statements have been prepared with absolute integrity and in full compliance with the charity law.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, the determined to interpret this responsibility as requiring them to follow current best practice and prepare the accounts according to the FRS 102 SORP 2015.

In particular, charity law requires the Trustees, if they prepare accounts on an accruals basis, to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to :-

- to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed , subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with regulations made under the charity legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the Independent Examiner in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that , on the face of the report, there are no material inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

1.1 Reference and Administrative information

Charity Name: St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK

Charity Registration Number: 1203763

Operational Address: 80-96 Cambridge Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW4 7BH

Trustees

Vicar / President: Rev. John Mathew Charivil

Vice President: Dr John Thomas MBE

Secretary: Mr Alexander Renjith Joseph

Treasurer & Accountant: Mr Saji Varghese & Mr James Varghese

Mr Philip Kureekkaparampil John	Mr Abraham Pathinettil Thomas	Mr Sunny Abraham Valiyakalayil	Mr Puliyelethu Mathai Mathew
Adv. Jacob Poovathumannil Abraham	Mrs Lincy Elizabeth Philip	Mr Nigel Koshy	Mr Mathew Samuel
Mrs Mary Varughese	Mr Varughese Mathew	Dr Suresh Samuel	Mr Rengy Oommen

Mr Gijo Jacob Cherian	Mr Shibu Abraham	Mr Binu Thomas	Mr Robin Poykayil Babu
Dr Elenza Jacob	Mr Anil Kalathil Mathew	Mr Dibin John	Mr Koshy Thomas

Internal Auditors:

Mr John Chacko, Mrs Joji Samuel

Health and Safety Officer & Building Manager:

Dr John Thomas MBE

Independent Examiner

Fairfax Tax and Accounts Limited, 9 Stoughton Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4DS.

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc, 210 High Street, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1DL.

1.2 Governing Document

St John's Mar Thoma Church, UK is governed by the constitution adopted on 27th October 1996 and as amended on 29th January 2006 submitted to the Charity Commission as charity unincorporated organisation till as on 30th June 2023 and new Charity Incorporated Organisation constitution commencing from 1st July 2023; and by the constitution of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, Kerala, India.

1.3 Risk Management

The Executive Committee have, from time to time, examined the significant operational risks that the parish faces and confirms that systems have been established to enable regular review of steps that can be taken to reduce these risks. Risk management is reviewed and discussed at Executive Committee meetings. A Health and Safety Policy has been adopted and is updated and maintained.

1.4 Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

We have adopted a policy based on the requirements of the Children Act 1989, which is monitored and reviewed annually. DBS checks are being carried out on all individuals responsible for children's activities.

1.5 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

In compliance with the requirements, St John's Mar Thoma Church established a GDPR policy in April 2018 and updated it in 2021. All trustees have been briefed on the regulation and their responsibilities to ensure compliance with the procedure.

1.6 Reserves Policy

The cash reserves of the charity, which are carried forward from year to year usually be equivalent of one year's income. The reserves held are prudent minimum to ensure that the work of the charity continues in an orderly manner from year to year, even when donations may fluctuate. It also provides funds for any development and expansion work in the future. The current cash balance is high as we have set aside funds for purchasing a new church property.

2. Parish

The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar traces its origins to the pioneering evangelistic efforts of St Thomas the Apostle, who arrived to India in AD 52. The Church is renowned for its illustrious heritage and possesses a complement of twelve Bishops, indicative of its high standard of ecclesiastical hierarchy. The supreme head of the Church is the Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan and the headquarters of Mar Thoma Church is located in Thiruvalla, a city in the southern state of Kerala, India, which is known for its cultural and religious significance.

The mother church is divided into 14 Dioceses, with each comprising numerous parishes, and governed by a Diocesan Bishop. The UK is home to a thriving Mar Thoma community that first came together to worship in 1957. The St John's Mar Thoma Church in the UK was established in 1996 as an extension of this initial worshipping community. This esteemed institution is recognized as a registered Charity Incorporated Organisation within the United Kingdom, bearing the registration number 1203763 (1060532 charity registration number till 30th June 2023), and is headquartered at 80-96 Cambridge Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW4 7BH.

St John's Mar Thoma Church was under the UK & Europe Zone of the Mar Thoma Church, Church, and it comes under the North America-Europe Diocese, which is helmed by the Diocesan Bishop, the Rt Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa till 31st December 2023. From 1st January 2024 the Zonal status has been uplifted to a new Diocese in the Mar Thoma Church named UK-Europe-Africa Diocese. The newly consecrated Rt Rev. Dr Joseph Mar Ivanios is the Diocesan Bishop. We extended a farewell to Rt Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa and a warm welcome to the newly consecrated Rt Rev. Dr Joseph Mar Ivanios. May this transition be a blessing for the community in UK-Europe and the parish continues to thrive and flourish.

2.1 Mission & Objectives

The primary aim of St John's Mar Thoma Church, UK, is to propagate the Christian faith through the conduct of consistent Christian worship services in accordance with the traditions of the Mar Thoma Church. Additionally, the church strives to provide compassionate pastoral care to its members and to arrange spiritual activities that enrich their spiritual lives.

Moreover, the parish endeavours to foster ecumenical relationships within the local community and other churches, while also making benevolent contributions towards evangelistic and charitable initiatives both in the United Kingdom and internationally.

2.2 Membership

The Vicar maintains a parish register of all members. All persons above 18 years, who have their names on the parish register, receive Holy Communion in the Parish and whose parish membership has not been barred are entitled to be Edavaka Sangham members (General Body of the Parish). As of 31st March 2024, our membership encompasses nearly 200 active families consisting of 750 members. Within the reporting period, about twenty-one new families have been enrolled into the Parish, and we extend a cordial welcome to these new additions to the fellowship of St John's Mar Thoma Church UK.

2.3 Appointment of Trustees/Executive Committee

The trustees/executive committee members are annually elected prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. They are chosen either by the General Body or by the constituents of the organization that they represent, or alternatively, may be nominated by the Diocesan Bishop.

The appointment of Trustees is in accordance with the constitution and upholds high standards of governance.

2.4 Day to Day Management

The trustees/executive committee meet regularly, while the day-to-day management of the Charity is delegated to the Vicar, Secretary, Treasurer, and Accountant, reflecting a commitment to good governance and a high standard of operational excellence.

2.5 Farewell to the Vicar, Rev. Binu John Varghese and Family

Rev. Binu John Varghese has dutifully discharged his responsibilities as Vicar of the Parish since 2019 up to April 2023. He has also assumed several significant duties, including serving as a member of the Sabha Council, as well as holding the position of Vice President of Mar Thoma Churches in UK-Europe Zone, Bishop's Secretary for the UK & Europe Zone, and leadership to Salem Mar Thoma Congregation, Southampton. His wife, Mrs Sujith Thattaruzhathil John, and children, Master Nived Johan Varghese and Master Netan John Varghese, have also been actively engaged in various parish activities. Farewell meeting was organised to Rev. Binu John Varghese and family on 30th April and they left for India after completing four years of ministry on 30th April 2023.

2.6 New Vicar, Rev. John Mathew Charivil and Family

Rev. John Mathew Charivil is the new Vicar of the parish from 1st May 2023. He served as the Vicar of several Mar Thoma parishes in Kerala and Tamil Nadu and remarkably as the Mar Thoma Church youth wing's (Yuvajana Sakhyam) organisational General secretary. His wife Mrs Blessy John Mathew and children Miss Aadra John Mathew and Miss Achshah John Mathew are also active in the parish's organisational activities. Rev. John Mathew Charivil and family arrived by the second week of May 2023 and took charge as the Vicar. From January 2024 Rev. John Mathew Charivil has also been appointed as the Diocesan Secretary of the newly formed UK-Europe-Africa Diocese. We wish Rev. John Mathew Charivil and family's service in the coming years to be a blessing for the parish, diocese and the community.

3 General Body Meetings & Executive Committee Meetings

The administrative functioning decisions and the mission-oriented activities of the Parish are managed by the executive committee, which adheres to high standards of governance and subject to the approval of the General Body. All the decisions made are scrutinized thoroughly and aligned with the charity commission guidelines before receiving final approval from the Diocesan Bishop.

The Executive Committee members demonstrate their unwavering commitment to the Parish by participating in a dedication service and retreat at the beginning of the financial year. Throughout the year, the Current Executive Committee has convened seventeen times, demonstrating their proficiency and agility in taking necessary decisions for the smooth functioning of the Parish. The members have also come together twice in April and December after the Sunday service to carry out the essential tasks of rearrangement and cleaning, upholding the high standards of hygiene and orderliness within the Parish.

The General body meetings were held four times in the financial year on 09th July 2023, 29th October 2023, 21st January 2024 and 07th April 2024 at the church. The meeting held on 21st January 2024 elected the Office Bearers and Internal Auditors of St Johns Mar Thoma Church, UK, for the financial year 2024-2025.

The following were elected as Trustees and Internal Auditors for the 2024 – 2025 financial year.

Vice President: Mr Philip Cherukara Thomas

Secretary: Mr Philip Kureekkaparampil John

Treasurer: Mr Binu Sam

Accountant: Mr Samuel Daniel

Lay Leader: Mr Subin Baby & Mr Biju Mathews

Internal Auditors: Mr Mathew Samuel & Dr Jansen Jacob

3.1 COVID-19 Protocol Team

The government has fully relaxed all COVID-19 protocols and WHO has declared COVID-19 as a normal flu condition last year. In the reporting year, the Church was opened for Sunday services and all activities in person. The team monitors and makes sure of a healthy atmosphere in the premise. The protocol team comprised of the Vicar, the Secretary, Finance Trustees, Mr P. M. Mathew, and the protocol officer, Mr Varughese Mathew.

3.2 Parish development committee

On 14th July 2019, the Annual General Body meeting convened and passed a resolution to explore the feasibility of acquiring a new property to address the multiple challenges presently faced by the parish, mainly the space capacity. The committee, under the leadership of convenor Mr. P. M. Mathew, is actively engaged in fulfilling this duty with utmost fidelity and has made significant progress in this regard. The executive committee had bid for two potential properties at Slough and Camberley but were unsuccessful in acquiring them, but are looking into the possibility of another property at Weybridge.

3.3 Internal Auditors

Mrs Joji Samuel and Mr John Chacko diligently fulfilled their roles as internal auditors during the fiscal year 2023-2024, verifying the financial statement, policy documents and providing requisite counsel.

4. Financial Statement

The financial statement for the reporting nine months period after the internal auditing, is enclosed herewith the booklet. For the nine months period ending 31st March 2024, the Charitable organization has recorded a total revenue of £241,455 and expenses amounting to £147,665 thereby yielding a surplus of £93,790

5. Worship Services & Activities for the year 2023 – 2024

Through the beneficence of God Almighty, we were able to duly execute all the prescribed liturgical services and sacraments, as well to fulfil the church's missional and ministerial obligations during the reporting year. This notable accomplishment has undoubtedly heightened the spiritual fortitude and enrichment of our beloved faith community.

5.1 Worship & Other Services

Throughout the year, weekly Sunday services were conducted alternately in Malayalam and English languages. Additionally, a series of special services were conducted to commemorate various occasions such as Zonal Sunday, Edavaka Mission Sunday, Education Sunday, Sevika Sangham Day, Youth Sunday, Choir Sunday, Senior Citizens Day, Family Sunday, and World

Sunday School Day. Special prayers were held during Remembrance Sunday and Ecumenical Sunday. These events were celebrated with great zeal and fervour, bringing together the members of the congregation to reflect upon and cherish their shared values and beliefs. The congregation eagerly participated in these events, which served as a reminder of the importance of community, faith, and the power of coming together in fellowship.

5.2 Lenten Prayers and Maranaya Festivals

The observances of Lent and Maranaya festivals hold a significant place in the liturgical calendar of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, as they are intimately linked to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. These acts are deemed of utmost importance and are considered obligatory for all faithful believers of the Church to partake in, as the Church firmly believes that the life of a Christian should be a reflection of Jesus Christ's journey from Bethlehem to Golgotha and ultimately to the mount of resurrection.

The Mar Thoma Syrian Church's constitution firmly upholds the observance of these festivals as a fundamental aspect of Christian practice. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all believers to observe them regularly with reverence and devotion. By doing so, they align themselves with the Church's teachings and embody the virtues of Christ in their daily lives.

5.3 Great Lent Services and Passion Week Services

The Passion Week services were conducted in a devout and sanctified manner, with a particular emphasis on the virtual Sandya Namaskaram held on all Wednesdays and Thursdays in the year 2023 and Thursdays in 2024. Furthermore, the Great Lent was marked by the special worship of Reconciliation, the Mid-Lent service, and the 40th Friday service.

The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar adheres to the tradition, which places great importance on the fifty days before Easter Sunday, and twenty-five days before Christmas. These days are dedicated to prayer, meditation, and fasting, as the Church believes that they are crucial for spiritual growth. The Parish organized special prayers and services during all the five Lents observed by our Church, thus reinforcing our commitment to this sacred tradition.

5.3.1 Sreeha Nombu - the fast of the Apostles:

It is the time of commemorating the life and witness of the 12 disciples. Special services were arranged on all Thursdays during this Lenten period from 16th to 29th June 2023.

5.3.2 Pathinanchu Nombu:

It is time to honour the life and testimony of the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. Special services have been organized on Thursday evenings throughout this Lenten season from August 1st to August 15th the time of commemorating the life and witness of Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus Christ.

5.3.3 25 Day Lent:

During this sacred season, devout individuals engage in prayerful preparations for the commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ. In observance of the Lenten period, which spans from the 1st to the 25th of December, a series of special services have been arranged on each Thursday. This serves as an opportunity for believers to reflect on the significance of the upcoming celebration and to strengthen their spiritual connection with their faith.

5.3.4 Nineveh Lent:

The solemn observance of the three-day Lent commenced on the 22nd to the 24th January 2024.

5.4 Moranaya festivals

The Moranaya festivals are a time of solemnly commemorating the pivotal events of Jesus Christ's life. These sacred observances are marked by the arrangement of special prayers and the faithful gathering together to honour the following days:

5.4.1 Day of Ascension:

The service has been arranged on Thursday 18th May to commemorate the events that happened on the day of Ascension.

5.4.2 Day of Pentecost:

Special service has been added on Sunday, 28th May during the Holy Communion service.

5.4.3 Day of Transfiguration:

Worship has been conducted on Sunday 6th August to commemorate the events that happened during the time of Transfiguration where Jesus was filled with glory and the disciples learnt new aspects about their journey of faith.

5.4.4 Danaha (Baptism of Jesus Christ):

Special service has been arranged on Thursday 4th January to commemorate the baptism of Jesus Christ.

5.5 Sandhya Namaskaram on Thursday's

The Sandhya Namaskaram, a spiritual practice aimed at fostering inner peace and strength, commenced amidst the COVID-19 pandemic on a Thursday evening at 8 pm. Since its inception, it has been seamlessly continued on the virtual platform. The service comprises of a wide range of spiritual experiences, including hymns, readings, sermon, and intercessory prayers. The coordination of the Sandhya Namaskaram was spearheaded by the Edavaka mission, ensuring a harmonious and structured experience for all participants.

5.6 Chain Prayer

The chain prayer is held from 5am to 7pm on Tuesdays. This dedicated group comprises of nearly 40 devout members, who undertake the responsibility of allocating individual time slots for prayer, allowing each participant to engage with utmost devotion and sincerity. As a testament to our collective commitment, we ensure that all prayer requests are communicated with meticulous care and regular updates, providing a beacon of hope and comfort to numerous members and their loved ones who have benefited significantly from the power of our collective prayer.

Mrs Saramma George – Coordinator

5.7 Baptism

The following have become official members of our parish and the larger Christian community after the Holy sacrament of Baptism. This momentous occasion marks their formal initiation into our congregation, signifying their inclusion in the fold of faithful believers.

1. Oliver George Peggy, S/o Mr Peggy N. John and Mrs Jincy Johney

5.8 Marriage

Throughout the year of reporting, the sacrament of holy matrimony was solemnized/banns of marriage were published and No Objection Certificate for Marriage was issued for Marriage, to the following esteemed individuals. The parish extends its heartfelt blessings and well wishes for a joyous and prosperous Married life:

1. Mr Joel Mathew Philip and Mrs Angela Susan Alex, July 2023
2. Mrs Divya John and Mr Milton Alexander John, August 2023
3. Mrs Jasmine George and Mr Sibin George, October 2023

5.9 Housewarming

During this year several of our members have acquired new homes and the house blessing services have been conducted.

5.10 Obituary:

The parish, in solidarity with its congregants, extends its deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family during this trying time of inconsolable grief and profound loss. In an effort to offer solace to the family, organized prayer meetings were held and a visit was paid to them for their comfort.

Mrs Salome Oommen, West London prayer group, one of the senior member passed way in October 2023.

Parish extended spiritual support for the consolation of these families. We place on record our condolences to the bereaved families.

6. Special Services:

6.1 Farewell Meeting to Rt Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos

Rt Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos was the Diocesan Bishop from 2016 to 2023. Thirumeni's leadership in the UK-Europe region is commendable. The UK-Europe region becoming a Zone and its later transition into a Diocese is because of Thirumeni's silent hard work and dedication. Mar Philoxenos Thirumani has given leadership and guidance to our church during his visit in the UK-Europe. The church is grateful for Thirumeni's tenure and service to the parish. A farewell meeting to Rt Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos was held on 12th November 2023.

7. Activities for the year

7.1 Parish Day

We have held special thanksgiving service for Parish Day on Sunday, 23rd April 2023. The parish mission activities, especially neighbourhood mission project Olive Branch, was highlighted after the service.

7.2 Family Retreat 2023 and 2024

The 2023 Family Retreat was arranged on 1st April at Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke. Rev. Merin Mathew gave the leadership. The adults, youth and children had separate sessions. Games were arranged for the afternoon. The convenors were Mr Binu Sam and Adv. Jacob P. Abraham

The 2024 Family Retreat was held at Aldworth School, Basingstoke on 23rd March. Rev. Dr M. J. Joseph and Dr Sunny Stephen gave the leadership. Separate session for adults, youth and children were arranged. Mr Cibi Mathew led the youths and children's sessions. The convenors were Dr. John Thomas and Mr. Binu Sam.

7.3 Topic Discussion

We had a topic discussion on Sunday, 11th June after the service. The discussion topic was 'Cheap Grace vs Costly Grace in our ever-growing secular world' as put forward by author and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book The Cost of Discipleship. The moderator for the discussion was Mr Sony Koleth.

7.4 Kerala Day

The Kerala Day celebrations was on 10th September after the Holy Communion Service. It is a day when the members celebrate their heritage and look back on their roots and attempt to keep it alive. Around 350 people attended Kerala Day and it was a wonderful occasion for everyone who attended. There were live cultural performances which everyone enjoyed. The highlight of the day was the 27 different traditional items of Kerala food that was served for lunch on banana leaves.

Mr Anil K. Mathew , Mrs Lincy Philip & Mr Robin P. Babu - convenors

7.5 Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival, a time of great communal celebration and thanksgiving to God, was held on Saturday 16th September 2023 between 12-4pm and on Sunday 17th September 2023 after the Holy Communion service. The event was inaugurated on Saturday 16th September at 12 pm by Rev John Mathew with a special thanksgiving service assisted by Dr Elenza Jacob and Mr Dibin John. It was a solemn service for parishioners as they expressed their gratitude to God for His mercy and grace towards them through liturgy, songs and prayers.

The service was followed by the offering of a fruit basket beautifully prepared by Mrs Susan Mathew as a token of expression to honour God with the first of all our resources. The festivities commenced with talented auctioneers who presented enticing goods, plants and food products brought in by the parishioners. The festivities were further enhanced by the sale of aromatic and delicious food items skilfully prepared by various church members.

On Sunday 17th September, the event commenced soon after the communion service. On both days, a one-day income offertory was dutifully submitted by the church community to support the church in its charitable endeavours.

The collection of funds was undertaken by our trustees, Mr Saji Varghese and Mr James Varghese. The Sevika Sangam secretary Mrs Mary Varughese provided advice on food items that were firm favourites within our church community. The festive mood was a testament to the joy of fellowship and the unwavering spirit of generosity that characterises our church community. Through the tireless efforts of our members a gracious sum of £24,990 was raised to support the assigned charities- Olive branch(50%) Church Development Fund(25%) and Church Mission (25%). The Harvest Festival once again gave us the opportunity to celebrate God's generosity towards us as a community and to be a blessing in this world by sharing our resources with those who are in need.

*Dr Elenza Jacob, Mrs Renji Varughese, Mr Dibin John, Mr Mathew Samuel, Dr John Thomas -
Convenors*

7.6 Parish Convention

The annual convention was held from 29th Sept to Oct 1st 2023 and the guest speaker was Rev Dr Jacob Thomas. The theme of the convention was “Called for A Noble Purpose”. Achen used this opportunity to encourage parishioners to have an encounter with the living God. They were reminded that they are created for a purpose and that they are part of a relationship. Singing was led by St Johns Men’s Voice and intercessory prayers were led by our members.

Dr Suresh Samuel - Convenor

7.7 Badminton Day

The St John’s Mar Thoma Church Badminton tournament was held on 8th November at Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre. The tournament was planned as a Mar Thoma Church family get together for all the Mar Thoma parishes in United Kingdom. Owing to the previous year’s success, the turnout and response from our sister churches was outstanding and commendable. The participants came from as far as Manchester, Cardiff and the enthusiasm and the cooperation enabled the tournament to be held in an orderly fashion. The endurance of all participants to play through the group games and finals in a day showed their support to the tournament. Altogether over 85 contestants participated.

*Mr Daniel Soby Mathew, Mrs Mary Varughese, Mr Philip K. John and Mr Gijo Jacob Cherian -
Convenors*

7.8 VBS

The VBS was conducted over two weekends during the school half term holidays in October. The theme for the VBS was “Root and Fruit”. Ninety-nine children both from our parish and sister churches participated in the VBS. This year there was a session for the children in Grades 11-13. Children learned about Christ in a fun filled environment through action songs, skits, crafts ,discussions and enjoyed the snacks and meals together during the VBS. The following Saturday after the morning session, there was a presentation programme for the parents and members of the parish. Rev. Reji Easow , Reshmi Kochamma and Annet Koshy were the leaders of this year’s VBS.

Mrs. Beula Elizabeth Mathew -Convenor

7.9 Youth Conference

A Youth Conference of remarkable significance was held in Mickleham, spanning from the 22nd to the 24th of October. An impressive 46 members actively participated in the conference, making it a resounding success. Rev. Reji Easow led the conference with great zeal and perseverance. The conference offered an unparalleled opportunity for the youth to engage in profound and thoughtful deliberations, fostering strong bonds and relationships with each other. It was a moment of immense pleasure and camaraderie, as the participants enjoyed the chance to interact with like-minded individuals who shared their ideals and aspirations.

The conference was characterized by a spirit of fellowship, as the young attendees congregated to learn from one another and build a sense of community. The event proved to be an invigorating and uplifting experience for all those who partook in it, leaving an indelible impression on their hearts and minds.

Mr. Aaron Alexander - Convenor

7.10 Cake Sale

On 3rd December 2023, Sevika Sangham organised annual cake sale and were able to collect £4,620. This sum was allocated to continue supporting Evangelist (Late) Santhosh George's Daughter for her Nursing studies, Church development fund and Sevika Sangham fund.

Mrs Bibi Abraham & Mrs Aleyamma Cherian – Convenors

7.11 Christmas Carol Service & Advent season

On the 16th of December 2023, a festive Christmas Carol service was held at the Church. The esteemed chief guest, Prof. Dr Roys Mallassery, Former Principal of St Thomas College, Kozhenchery and UK YMCA delegate, delivered a captivating Christmas message. The event featured a bright display of live presentations by the Choir, Sunday School, youth fellowship, Edavaka Mission, Sevika Sangham and the Diaspora students. Furthermore, representatives from various organizations within the Parish lent their voices to the occasion by delivering the bible readings.

7.12 Harmondsworth Care & Custody Centre

This year also, a magnificent Christmas carol service was orchestrated and wholeheartedly bestowed gifts to the detainees housed at Harmondsworth Care & Custody centre, as a reflection of our charitable mission during the Christmas season. On the 17th of December the detainees were gifted with living essentials and stationary items, which were handed over to the prison chaplain, Rev. Patrick Wright, for efficient distribution amongst the inmates.

Additionally, our choir rendered soulful renditions of traditional carols, and orchestrated a mesmerizing narration that was enjoyed by all in attendance. Our team was honoured to have the opportunity to uplift the spirits of those incarcerated during the festive period and remain committed to spreading the message of goodwill and compassion to all.

7.13 Year Ending Meditations and Watch night service

The year ending devotions were held on 28th and 29th December evening virtually. Watch night Holy communion service was held on 31st December evening at Church.

7.14 Swargiya Thalam (Talent Evening)

On February 3rd 2024, at Costello school, Basingstoke, St John's Mar Thoma church conducted an entertainment evening to provide an opportunity for its members to express their talents through songs, dance, plays, instrumental, mimes and mono act. Participants were encouraged to present their talents in keeping to our Christian faith and witness.

The evening was well attended and the presentations were well delivered by children and adults alike. It also afforded the opportunity to socialise with one another and to welcome visitors to the event. The event was made possible through the joint efforts of many church members. Mr Anish P. Tom provided the technical advice and coordination throughout the planning stage. Mr Sam Thomas undertook the video recording and photos; prayer group secretaries helped with the distribution of the tickets for the event. Dr Tammy Samuel anchored the order of events enabling its smooth running and Mr Tony Cherian catered the delicious food for the occasion.

It was fortunate to have the services of an external company run by Mr Sibi, who provided the excellent sound and lights system which ensured every act was projected in an extraordinary way thus ensuring a captive audience. The executive committee and Rev John Mathew Achen gave advice and support throughout the planning stages. Swargiya Thallam provided a successful and enjoyable social opportunity for the church through this talent evening. We thank God for the various talents expressed and reminded ourselves to use them for God's glory.

Dr Elenza Jacob, Mr Shibu Abraham - Convenors

8. Visiting Clergy and Other Speakers

Rev. Sijo John provided leadership for worship services when we needed on some Sundays and other festive and Lenten services. He supported us in all the spiritual activities of the Parish. Rev. Sijo John has completed his ministry in the UK and left to India in April 2024 and the church have arranged a farewell meeting on 25th February 2024 in appreciation of his service and leadership in this parish

The church was fortunate to have the following guests / parish members who inspired us through their messages:

The guest leaders/preachers were Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa, His Grace Dr Anthimos Mathews Metropolitan, Bishop Saju Muthalaly, Rev. T. S. Thomas, Rev. Dr M. J. Joseph, Rev. Merin Mathew, Rev. Mathews George, Rev. John T. Thomas, Rev. Reji Easow, Rev. Stanley Mathew John.

Dr K. O. John, Dr John Thomas, Mrs Blessy John Mathew, Mr Nigel Koshy, Mr Shane Binu, Prof. Dr Roys Mallassery, Dr Sunny Stephen, Mr Abin Varghis, Mr Alexander Renjith Joseph.

9. Area Prayer Groups, Prayer Meetings and Holy Communion Services

The Parish has eight prayer groups in ten different areas and prayer meetings were held regularly in all areas. Bible study, discussion and intercessory prayers are the regular programs at the prayer meeting. Songs are sung in both English and Malayalam. In some prayer groups, a 'Thought of the Day' is shared by a member of the hosting family, or one of the youth members or children. Quizzes were held in some prayer groups, which encourage participation by all age groups. Bible readings are done by children and adults. Special meetings have been arranged in all the occasions of the bereavement of the dear ones of the members in the prayer group.

Holy Communion service is held at Oxford area on every Thirds Sunday, Sunday School also started before the service. This year Holy Communion service has also started at Bedford area on Third Saturday's.

Area	Meeting schedule	Area Representative
Guildford	Second Friday of the month	Dr Elenza Mary Jacob
North London	Third Saturday of the month	Mr Shibu Abraham

Oxford	Third Sunday of the month	Mr Abraham P. Thomas
Slough	Fourth Friday of the month	Mr Anil K. Mathew
South East	Second Saturday of the month	Mr Koshy Thomas
Staines	First Sunday of the month	Mr Binu Thomas
Stevenage	Fourth Saturday of the month	Mr Robin P. Babu
West London	Second Saturday of the month	Mr Gijo Jacob Cherian
Also prayer meetings are held at Reading on 1 st Friday and South West on 1 st Saturday evening.		

10. Organisations and Activities

All the organisations of our Church functioned in-personal or virtually this year to further the mission and ministerial activities of our Parish.

10.1 Edavaka Mission

The Edavaka Mission plays a significant role in spreading the Gospel and overseeing the mission-related activities of the Parish. The organization operates under the guiding principle of "Every Marthomite is an evangelist" and works to promote a variety of activities within the Parish, including intercessory prayers and Christian fellowship.

Sandhya Namaskaram were conducted on Thursday evenings, led by Vicar. The Bible study during the last year was from Philippians, Ephesians and Galatians. The Vicar led the Bible study and this was followed by prayer. Around 20 families attend the service regularly and members of the parish also take leadership for the service.

Every Sunday, there is an intercessory prayer, prior to the service led by members of the parish and to intercede for the needs of our church, individuals and world at large.

The annual convention was held from 29th September to 1st October and the guest speaker was Rev. Dr Jacob Thomas. The convention was coordinated by the Edavaka Mission.

During the Christmas carol service, the members of the Edavaka mission participated by singing a song led by Mrs Sheeba Philip. As part of our outreach ministry, Edavaka Mission visited Harmondsworth Care & Custody Centre and distributed gifts and fellowship on 17th December 2023.

Mrs Aleyamma Abraham and Mrs Achiamma John served as the Vice-President and Treasurer respectively.

Dr Suresh Samuel – Edavaka Mission Secretary

10.2 Sunday School

Sunday school classes were held regularly on Sundays. Curriculum texts issued by the North America Diocese was used. During the year, regular tests were conducted in enhancing children's understanding. The UK & Europe Zonal Sunday school conducted the annual examination on 2nd July 2023. Combined sessions were held during the school summer holidays.

Education Sunday service was organised on first Sunday of September and the special offertory taken was used for the “Light to Life” project. In October, the Zonal Sunday school teachers training took place in our parish. This also gave the teachers an opportunity to meet and to have a fellowship with other teachers of the South zone. Our Sunday school participated in the Zonal World Sunday school Day celebrations. This was held at Cardiff and our Sunday school children and teachers actively participated in this event. Children presented a 8-minute programme which included a Malayalam song, English Song and a short skit based on prayer.

World Sunday school day was celebrated in our parish on 5th November. Children were given greater participation in the Holy Communion service on that day. Our Sunday school participated in the “Operation Christmas Child programme” of Samaritans Purse UK. Children brought in gifts in beautifully decorated shoe boxes for children affected by wars and natural calamities in Europe and Africa. Children were also given prizes for their achievements in the previous academic year. The senior children presented online Lenten thoughts in March during the lent period. Mrs Preneetha Pallath coordinated the Lenten thoughts. The Sunday school also participated, in the Parish Carol service by presenting a musical nativity skit. We are extremely grateful to God’s grace and blessings in conducting the Sunday school during the reporting year.

Mr Varughese Mathew – Headmaster

10.3 Youth Fellowship

The Youth Fellowship comprises of more than 56 vibrant and active members. The group holds meetings on 2nd and 4th Sundays. During these gatherings, there were customary Bible studies, praise and worship, and moments of prayer and introspection. The Youth Fellowship plays an integral part in the regular activities of our Church and participates zealously in the UK & Europe Zonal activities, such as the Zonal Youth Conference and South Centre Youth Retreat, respectively. Our youths have actively participated in the parish carol service and other parish activities, in addition to any Zonal activities.

On Sunday, 15th October 2023, the congregation observed Youth Sunday, which was led by our youth members. This year, the Youth Conference was held at Juniper Hall, Mickleham, spanning from the 22nd to 24th September 2023 with the theme ‘WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT’. An impressive 46 members actively participated in the conference, making it a resounding success. The esteemed Rev. Reji Easow led the conference with great zeal and perseverance.

10.3.1 Youth Band

A youth band had been established within the Parish, and it assumes responsibility for leading the worship service on every 4th Sunday. This initiative has given the opportunity to engage senior Sunday school students and youth members in a unique opportunity during the worship service. Mr. Isaac George is leading the youth band in a blessed manner.

Jessica Varghese, Aaron Alexander, Daniel Mathew, and Reya Varughese served as the, Vice President, Joint Secretary, Treasurer and Zonal representative, respectively.

Mr. Nidhin Philip - Youth Fellowship Secretary

10.4 Sevika Sangham (Women's Auxiliary)

Sevika Sangham is the fellowship of all the women in the Parish who have attained the age of 18 years or above. It is with great gratitude that God's blessing is acknowledged for the privilege to serve for another year as members of the Sevika Sangham in our Parish and for providing the opportunity to work towards the greater glory of God. The unique and significant role, as women, in the faith formation of our families and communities is recognised and embraced

Meetings were held on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month after service and engaged in studying together the 'Women Characters' from the Bible and our members have taken the initiative to present their reflections on the characters and was followed by group discussions. Fasting prayer was conducted every Friday from 10.30am to 12pm, The prayer gathering commences with hymns, reading of Bible and culminate in a thoughtful reflection to ready our hearts and minds for prayer.

South Centre Zonal Sevika Sangham conference took place on 24th June 2023 in Bristol Mar Thoma Church. The Sevika Sangham members took part in intercessory prayers. In the afternoon, South Centre Zonal Sevika Sangham singing competition took place. There were 12 Sevika Sangham members representing our Parish in this competition and thank God for all their dedication and hard work which enabled our Parish to attain the 1st Prize. The Sunday 10th September was observed as Sevika Sangham day. Sevika Sangham members played an active role in the worship service on that day, helping in various roles. A special song for Sevika Sangham day was sung by members during the service. Annual Conference of the UK-Europe Zonal Sevika Sangham took place on 7th October 2023 in Midlands. Sevika Sangham members assisted in the worship service with our vicar. In the afternoon there was Bible quiz competition from the book of Jeremiah. There were five Sevika Sangham members representing this Parish in this competition. Gratitude is expressed to God for their hard work and dedication in securing 1st Prize in the competition.

On 3rd December 2023, Sevika Sangham organised annual cake sale and were able to collect £4,620. The members of the Sevika Sangham presented a short skit for the Parish Christmas Carol Service which took place on 16th December 2023. Sevika Sangham coordinated the after-service refreshments every Sunday.

Mrs Mary Varughese – Sevika Sangham Secretary

10.5 Young Family Fellowship

In the tapestry of our church life, each thread represents a story, and when woven together, these stories create a rich and vibrant community fabric. Amid the highs and lows that naturally accompany any journey of significant impact, the collective efforts continue to illuminate a path toward brighter futures. The mission is to foster a nurturing environment where families can thrive has never been more relevant. In a year filled with both predictable

and unforeseen challenges, the transformation, empowerment, and growth was witnessed through the annual continued engagement programmes and exploring new avenues.

Throughout the year, the Fellowship continued to come together regularly to learn and meditate on the word of God. The events of the year as outlined in this report is hereby placed on record. Bible Study: Running up to the Bible Quiz earlier this year, the Vicar led the study online detailing the books of Joshua and Romans on every Wednesday at 8:00 pm delving into the context, history, and teachings and reflected on its message.

Family Bible Quiz: On January 28, 2024, a Family Bible quiz was held for the members of the church. The quiz was one among many means amongst the church tapestry to encourage families to gather and study the Word of God. After consideration with other events and suggestions from members, the assigned portion for the Bible quiz was Joshua from Old Testament and Romans from New Testament. There were five enthusiastic families who participated in the Family Bible Quiz. The winners were as given below: First Prize: Dr Jansen Jacob and Dr Elenza Jacob; Second Prize: Mr Biju Mathews, Mrs Elizabeth Biju Mathews and Miss Ruth Biju Mathews; Third Prize: Mr Alan Zachariah Sam, Mrs Beula Elizabeth Mathew and Master Ivan Sam Zachariah

Mr Mathew Samuel – Young Families Fellowship Secretary

10.6 Senior Citizens Fellowship

Senior Citizens Fellowship consisting of active members of the parish met at regular intervals during the year at the church quarterly on a Wednesday to spend the time together in building friendships and for sharing the fellowship. These meetings usually last for the whole day during which the members participate in discussions of theological issues. These discussions were continued by email communications. One of the features of these meetings were the sharing of a meal together to build on the friendship and the fellowship. Contacts between the members were maintained between the meetings through emails and telephone calls offering moral and spiritual support. On Sunday 17th September the Senior Citizens' Sunday was observed at which the Senior members took the leading role during the worship service. This was an opportunity to recall the contributions of members who are now "Seniors" made to the parish and the wisdom they bring into the church life. The group's commitment to ongoing communication and engagement ensures that the members remain connected and supported, both in their spiritual and everyday lives. As a vibrant group the members of the Senior Citizens' Fellowship participated and contributed to all aspects of the church life. Mr Rengy Oommen represented the Fellowship on the Executive committee during the year.

Dr John Thomas – Senior Citizens Fellowship Secretary

10.7 Choir

Praise and thanks are due to God for His guidance through another year of countless blessings. With God's divine grace, St. John's Church choir consistently contributed to the delight of worship, actively participating in the church community for the greater glory of God. The church choir, consisting of 57 registered members spanning various age groups, contributed harmoniously to the worship experience. Attendance continues to be taken for both, services and choir practice. It is indeed a blessing that, as is commissioned by Jesus, all choir members diligently did their best to proclaim the gospel through songs. The choir members took the initiative in leading the singing during the regular Sunday worship services and on other special occasions.

On Sunday, 28 May 2023, Choir Dedication Sunday was celebrated, and various members of the choir actively assisted in the worship service and Bible readings.

Gratitude are due to the Choir Master, Mr. Abraham K Thomas, Assistant Choir Masters, Mrs. Grace Varughese-Abraham and Mr. Shaun Thomas for leading and guiding the choir.

Mrs Lincy Philip – Choir Secretary

11 Missionary & Charitable Activities

St. John's Mar Thoma Church upholds a rich heritage of promoting diverse missionary undertakings and charitable works both domestically and internationally. The financial assistance offered to individuals has primarily catered to their medical, educational, and housing needs. The Parish has raised funds for these noble initiatives through various channels, including the Harvest Festival, Renounce the Taste and Spread the Flavor (a special collection drive during lent), Uposhnavaram, Fasting Offertory, Prayer Group Collections, voluntary donations, and cake sales.

11.1 Neighbourhood Mission

St. John's Mar Thoma Church feels deeply privileged and greatly honoured to lead the 'Olive Branch' project in collaboration with Holy Trinity Church Hounslow and Hounslow Evangelical Church. This initiative represents a significant effort to provide the critical aid and support to the homeless population in the surrounding areas of Hounslow. The 'Olive Branch' project operated from Thursday to Saturday each week, offering a comprehensive range of essential services to those in need. These services include food, shower facilities, laundry services, new clothing, and guidance on housing and counselling services. The project coordinator, Mr Kottackal George Joseph, has been a true driving force behind this initiative, skilfully managing and overseeing its implementation.

This opportunity is taken to thank all the parish members and church organisations for their whole-hearted support for the charitable activities of the parish during this year and look forward to their continued support in the future years.

Contribution towards various Charitable causes	Amount (£)
Olive Branch Hounslow - Neighbourhood Mission Project	12,175
Supporting - Hope Church Food bank, Christians Against Poverty, Manipur Relief work, Prison Ministry	5,664
Supporting Individuals with Medical, Educational and other urgent needs	13,250
Light to Life Project, India - to support Education and Development of less privileged Children – Sunday School Children initiative	900
Barnardo's Children Charity – supported by Sunday School Children	300
Sevika Sangham - Supporting Education of bereaved Evangelist's Family	1,500
TOTAL	33,764

12 Mandalam and Zonal Assembly of Mar Thoma Church-UK Europe Zone

12.1 Sabha Prathinidi Mandalam

The Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church's Sabha Pratinidhi Mandalam was held on August 29th, 30th, September 1st, and 2nd, 2023, at the Dr Alexander Mar Thoma Memorial Auditorium in Thiruvalla. This event was significant due to the election of three new Episcopas. The gathering successfully ratified the annual report and accounts for the years 2021-2023, alongside endorsing the budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024. Additionally, the assembly passed multiple resolutions and engaged in extensive deliberations revolving around the study theme of the year, namely, 'Migration of Marthomites and Ministry to the Marthoma Diaspora.' A special mandalam meeting for constitution amendments was held at the same venue on February 7th, 8th and 9th 2024.

Mr Sunny Abraham Valiyakalayil – Mandalam Representative

12.2 The Mar Thoma Church UK & Europe Zone / (UK-Europe-Africa Diocese)

The Mar Thoma Church UK & Europe Zone had a dynamic and fruitful financial year in 2023/2024, marked by spiritual growth, community engagement and meaningful outreach initiatives. The Episcopal Synod uplifted the UK and Europe Zone to a Diocese as "UK–Europe-Africa Diocese" with effect from 1st January 2024, all the legal documentation is under process. The Synod appointed Rt Rev. Dr Joseph Mar Ivanios Episcopa as our 1st Diocesan Episcopa.

The Diocese has over 2,000 families registered as members, served by 17 resident clergies and 23 centres of worship. All the church organisations, namely Sunday school, Youth Fellowship, SevikaSangham and Edvaka mission are also organised at the Zonal level. Youth fellowship at the Zonal level have started the "YOUMAT" programme which supported the youths currently in universities across UK and Europe.

The major new initiative of the Diocese is to initiate "Light to Life". The project aims at social development and transformation of communities through education of children, improve healthcare accessibility, foster personal growth, and empower children from marginalized backgrounds. Grounded in the vision of Rt Rev. Dr Issac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa, this initiative radiates hope and opportunity and the Diocese is committed to supporting 300 children. As a parish, we have been able to support 36 students.

The financial health of the Mar Thoma Churches in UK & Europe remained stable throughout the financial year. The Diocese acknowledged and thanked all St Johns members for their active support to all Zonal activities and their generous financial support to the Zonal initiatives.

Looking ahead the Diocese is committed to build upon the foundation laid in 2023-24 and furthering our mission of spreading the love of Christ in the UK – Europe - Africa Diocese. We will continue to adapt to the changing landscape, leveraging technology to enhance outreach efforts and strengthen community connections. With a renewed sense of purpose and unity, we are poised to embark on another year of spiritual growth, service, and transformation.

Mr P. M. Mathew and Adv. Jacob P. Abraham - Zonal Assembly Representatives.

12.3 Parish in the Zonal, Diocesan and Centre Activities of the Church

The Parish has actively and faithfully participated in numerous activities organized by Zone at various levels. The parishioners wholeheartedly joined in all the Zonal/Diocesan events and gatherings. Moreover, the members extended their unwavering support and actively contributed to the Zonal/Diocesan activities.

The Parish has also made significant contributions towards various Offertories and special collections initiated by the Church and the Zone/Diocese.

13 Ecumenical Relationships

This parish serves as a representative of the Member of Churches Together in England (CTE) and Churches Together in Britain & Ireland (CTBI) through the Council of Mar Thoma Parishes in Europe (UK-Europe Zone). Furthermore, actively participate in a range of parish activities and fostered cordial relationships with local authorities and organizations. As a member of Hounslow Friends of Faith, our parish's Vicar and Vice President attend meetings on behalf of our congregation. We also engage in ecumenical fellowship with Episcopal Churches and participate in various meetings.

14 Website & Programme Diary

The website for St John's Parish, located at <http://www.stjohnsmtc.org.uk/>, consistently provides thorough and up-to-date information regarding upcoming programmes and events. Dr Suresh Samuel's efforts are appreciated for updating the website. Recently, a digital programme diary for the parish was released on January 1st 2024. This programme diary was meticulously prepared by the Lay Ministrants in collaboration with the Vicar, ensuring that it contains comprehensive and precise details. Specifically, the programme diary features a concise summary of the service dates, lectionary, and the individuals responsible for reading lessons and providing service assistance.

15 Appreciation and Prayers

God has blessed the Mar Thoma Church to consecrate three new Bishops. The Ramban ordination was held on November 2023 and Episcopal consecration in December 2023. The parish extends its best wishes and prayers to the three newly consecrated Bishops namely Rt Rev. Zacharias Mar Aprem Episcopa, Rt Rev. Dr Joseph Mar Ivanios Episcopa and Rt Rev. Mathews Mar Seraphim Episcopa.

16 Acknowledgements

The Executive Committee wish to express its gratitude to our Metropolitan, The Most Rev. Dr Theodosius Mar Thoma, and the Episcopal Synod for their benevolent support towards the advancement of our Parish. We are particularly appreciative of the exceptional leadership, counsel, and backing provided by our Diocesan Bishop Rt Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos. We also extend a warm welcome to the new Diocesan Bishop Rt Rev. Dr Joseph

Mar Ivanios and pray Mar Ivanios leadership will be a blessing for the UK-Europe region in the coming years.

Furthermore, our special thanks are extended to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev. Justin Welby, and the Bishop of Kensington of the Church of England for their continuous patronage. Also respectfully acknowledge and thank the Government of His Majesty and the London Borough of Hounslow for their valuable assistance during the reporting year.

The genuine guidance of the Vice President, the diligent and commendable efforts of the Treasurer and Accountant, the lay leaders, the internal auditors, the convenors of various programmes, the office bearers of organizations, and all members who have provided their unwavering support to the Parish through their prayers and generous contributions during the year are recognised and acknowledged. Special appreciation goes to Mr Kottackal George Joseph, Mr Anish P. Tom, and Mr Dibin John for their technical assistance, liturgy projection, and guidance in effectively conducting services and programs virtually. Also, acknowledge the services and the assistance in all the possible DIY services from the members residing near the church, especially Mr Mathai Oommen for his sincere dedication and commitment.

17 Post COVID-19 impact on the Charity/Going concern

Covid-19 pandemic had an impact on the charity operations during the last four years. The in person gathering started and all the activities has come back to normal in the last financial year. The charity finances are not significantly impacted as it received majority of its donations by online bank transfer. The trustees monitor and ensure that the Charity responds to the challenges and continue to support various activities.

18 Closure of Old Charity and Formation of New Charity as CIO

As new Charity Incorporated Organisation been successfully registered, the old Charity with Charity Commission registration number 1060532 will be dissolved. All Assets and Liabilities of this Charity has been transferred to the newly registered CIO with the same name and with Charity Commission registration number 1203763. Mr Samuel Daniel's efforts are appreciated for carrying out this transition..

19 Conclusion

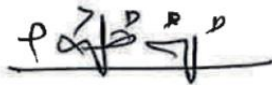
The church is not merely an institution or a social organization, but rather a tightly-knit community of individuals who have been divinely summoned out of the prevailing culture to embody a distinct and alternative way of existing in the world. As a community, we must strive to maintain our identity as a faith community that holds the values, practices, faithfulness and transmit vision of God's reign, which is revealed through Jesus Christ.

As a parish, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to "neighbourliness," which is characterized by a strong sense of solidarity and care for the marginalized and vulnerable, as well as our unwavering dedication to loving and caring for our neighbours, especially those who are oppressed and excluded by the dominant culture.

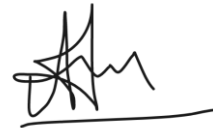
As we move forward, let us wholeheartedly reassert our commitment to advancing the mission and ministry of God Almighty by reflecting the character of Christ - embodying traits such as humility, love, integrity, generosity, and servanthood. It is through such noble traits that we can effectively represent God's divine purpose and fulfil His great commission. May

the Almighty God continue to abundantly bless our congregation and empower all our efforts for His ultimate glory and the expansion of His eternal Kingdom.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee / Charity Trustees.



Rev. John Mathew Charivil
Vicar & President



Alexander Renjith Joseph
Secretary

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT- ST JOHNS MAR THOMA CHURCH UK**Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the charity on the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024**

I report on the financial statements of the charity on pages 25-31 for the period ended 31 March 2024 which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (effective January 2015) as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commission for England & Wales, effective January 2015 (The SORP), under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 25.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As described on pages 1-2, the charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that there is no requirement in the governing documents of the charity for the conducting of an audit. As a consequence, the Trustees have elected that the financial statements be subject to independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under any legal provision, or otherwise, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- a) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- b) follow the procedures in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and;
- c) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Examiner's Statement and scope of work undertaken

I conducted my examination in accordance with the General Directions issued by the Charity Commission for England & Wales, under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, setting out the duties of an Independent Examiner in relation to the conducting of an Independent Examination. An Independent Examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and of the accounting systems employed by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning such matters. The purpose of the examination is to establish as far as possible that there have been no breaches of charity legislation and that the financial statements comply with the SORP, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and information supplied by the Trustees in the course of the examination is not subjected to audit tests or enquiries, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements, and in particular, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity, and my report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the Independent Examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtained written assurances from the Trustees of all material matters.

Independent Examiner's Statement, Report and Opinion

Attention is drawn to the accounting policy stating that, notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, and in order to accord with current best practice, the Trustees have determined to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the FRS 102 SORP 2015. I concur with this approach, and any references in my report to the regulations should be read subject to this comment.

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above, in connection with my examination, I can confirm that :-

This is a report in respect of an examination carried out under section 145 of the Act and in accordance with any directions given by the Commission under subsection (5)(b) of that section which are applicable;

and that no matter has come to my attention in connection with my examination 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 Charities Act 2011;
- when preparing accounts on an accruals basis under s132 of the Charities Act 2011, to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and the 2015 Regulations setting out the form and content of charity accounts;
- that the financial statements be prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective January 2015)

have not been met or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in my report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached;



Jitender Kaur
Member of ICAEW

Fairfax Tax
Faith House, Main Street
Little Stretton
LE2 2FS

This report was signed on 18/11/2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE 9 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds			Restricted funds	Total Funds March 2024	Total Funds March 2023
		General funds	Designated funds	Total			
		£	£	£			
Income from:							
Subscription and Donations	5,6 & 12	134,633	13,734	148,366	62,524	210,890	193,378
Other Activities-Fundraising Events	5 & 13	12,280	12,280	24,561	-	24,561	29,263
Investments - Bank Interest		6,005	-	6,005	-	6,005	1,112
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income		152,918	26,014	178,932	62,524	241,455	223,753
Expenditure on:							
<u>Charitable Activities</u>							
Church running costs	15	92,036	13,511	105,547	6,464	112,011	140,053
Other Charitable Activities	14	1,479	14,875	16,354	17,410	33,764	20,975
<u>Other</u>							
Independent Examiner's Fees		1,890	-	1,890	-	1,890	2,280
Total Expenditure		95,405	28,386	123,791	23,874	147,665	163,307
Net Income/(Expenditure)		57,513	(2,372)	55,141	38,650	93,790	60,446
Transfer between funds							
Capital Expenditure	8	5,634	(5,634)	-	-	-	-
Others	5	(85,402)	85,402	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(22,255)	77,396	55,141	38,650	93,790	60,446
Reconciliation of Funds:							
Total funds brought forward		464,614	350,057	814,671	24,611	839,282	790,493
Total funds carried forward		442,358	427,453	869,811	63,261	933,072	850,938

The charity's income and expenditure relate to continuing operations.

The charity has no gains or losses for the 9 months ended 31st March 2024 other than those shown above.

The surplus for the 9 months comprising of net incoming unrestricted fund & restricted fund equals £93,790 (2023:£60,446)

The figures in the Accounts for period ended 31st March 2024 are for 9 months and for year ended 31st March 2023 are for 12 months .

All figures in the Accounts are in decimals but shown rounded off for presentation purposes. Any difference in the totals is due to rounding off effect.

St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK

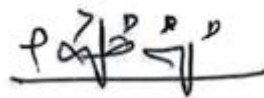
Charity Reg. No. 1203763

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

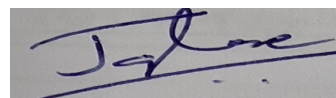
	Note	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS	2	324,279	332,380
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at Bank & in hand	11	609,127	518,923
Sundry Debtors/Prepayments	3	1,465	1,915
		610,593	520,838
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors: Amount falling due within 1 year	4	1,800	2,280
NET CURRENT ASSETS		608,793	518,558
NET ASSETS		933,072	850,938
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Unrestricted funds			
- General funds		442,358	470,097
- Designated funds	5	427,453	362,580
		869,811	832,676
Restricted Fund	6	63,261	18,262
		933,072	850,938



Saji Varghese
Treasurer



Rev. John Mathew C
Vicar & President



James Varghese
Accountant

Notes 1 to 16 on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the accounts for 9 months ended 31st March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and are prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" [Charities SORP (FRS102)] and Charities Act 2011.

Incoming Resources.

Donations, grants and other forms of voluntary income are accounted within the accounting year. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations and legacy are recognised when the income is received.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with the administration of the charity.

Resources expended include attributable VAT that cannot be recovered.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible Fixed Assets other than Freehold Land are stated at cost less depreciation. From 2014-15, the Freehold Property has been re-classified as Freehold Land valued at £100,000 and Building (balance value). No depreciation has been charged on Freehold Land.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets at the following rates to write off the cost of assets, over the useful expected life as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 25% on written down value
Building	- 2% on cost
Freehold Land	- Nil

Funds

General Funds represents those funds that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the charity. The balance represents the unexpended resources held within the fund.

Designated Funds are part of Unrestricted funds, that have been set aside for specific purposes by the trustees. These purposes are set out in the note 5.

Restricted Funds are those funds which must be spent for specific charity purposes as specified by the donor (Refer note 6).

Notes to the accounts for 9 months ended 31st March 2024

2 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

	Note	Freehold Land £	Building £	Equipment & Furniture £	Total £
Cost					
At 01 July 2023		100,000	418,756	149,787	668,544
Additions	8	-	-	5,634	5,634
Disposal		-	-	(1,690)	(1,690)
At 31 March 2024		100,000	418,756	153,731	672,488
Depreciation					
At 01 July 2023		-	204,113	135,123	339,236
Charge for the Period		-	6,281	4,382	10,663
Relate to disposal		-	-	(1,690)	(1,690)
At 31 March 2024		-	210,394	137,814	348,209
Net Book Value					
At 30 June 2023		100,000	214,644	14,665	329,308
At 31 March 2024		100,000	208,362	15,917	324,279

3 PREPAYMENTS/ADVANCE

Building & Motor insurance

2023-24*	As at 30/06/24
£	£
1,465	719
1,465	719

4 CREDITORS: AMOUNT FALLING WITHIN ONE YEAR

i) Sundry Creditors

Accruals

Independent Examination charges

2023-24*	As at 30/06/24
£	£
-	-
1,800	5,519
1,800	5,519

* 9 months ending 31st March 2024

Notes to the accounts for 9 months ended 31st March 2024

5 DESIGNATED FUNDS

The accumulated unrestricted funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of general funds by the trustees for the specific purposes.

	Balance as at		During the current year				Balance as at	
	01 Jul 2023	Transfers from General funds	Collections/ Proceeds	Utilised		Net Movement	31 Mar 2024	
				Capital Expenditure	Other Expenditure			
Vicar's Transfer (incl. Visa) Fund	1,508	5,000	-	-	72	4,928	6,436	
Church Car Fund	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	
Church Improvement Fund	1,725	5,000	200	5,634	-	(434)	1,291	
Church Development Fund	230,000	71,200	-	-	1,200	70,000	300,000	
Conference Fund	5,495	-	-	-	-	-	5,495	
Reserve / Contingency Fund	25,000	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	30,000	
Vicar's Ex-Gratia Fund	1	2,300	-	-	0	2,300	2,301	
Harvest Festival-Special Projects	48,940	(6,248)	12,280	-	12,175	(6,143)	42,798	
Choir	413	200	-	-	155	45	459	
Edavaka Mission	513	-	-	-	-	-	513	
Youth League	1,244	750	5,520	-	5,981	289	1,533	
Family Fellowship	14	200	-	-	0	200.00	214	
Sevika Sangham	11,202	-	2,949	-	2,041	908	12,110	
Sunday school	573	2,000	2,068	-	4,185	(117)	456	
VBS	3,429	-	2,997	-	2,578	419	3,848	
	350,057	85,402	26,014	5,634	28,386	77,396	427,453	

- a) Vicar's Transfer Fund - for the expenses incurred incl. visa costs for Vicar and his family upon their transfer to and from the United Kingdom.
- b) Church Car Fund - this fund provides for the planned replacement of Church car in future.
- c) Church Improvement Fund - provides for cost of major renovation/improvement to the Church premises and towards capital expenditure.
- d) Church Development Fund - set aside towards Church development including purchase of land and/or worship place and/or vicarage.
- e) Conference Fund - set aside for meeting any shortfall in hosting Diocesan Conference, when we are the host Parish.
- f) Reserve / Contingency Fund - set aside for meeting the church running cost in case of an emergency.
- g) Vicar's Ex-Gratia Fund - amount set aside for the Vicar and payable when he completes his term in the UK.
- h) Harvest Festival-Special Projects - Funds for Special Projects from Harvest Festival Collections. The outstanding balance will be used for Gadchiroli Project (once their FCRA Account is operative) & other special projects in the coming years.
- i) Choir, Edavaka Mission, Youth League, Family Fellowship, Sevika Sangham, Sunday School & VBS are internal organisations of the church and funds are transferred from the General Funds to cover shortfall between budgeted income and budgeted expenditure.

6 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance as at		During the current year			Balance as at	
	01 Jul 2023	Transfers from General funds	Collections	Utilised	Net Movement	31 Mar 2024	
CHARIS-Fasting offertory/RTT	14,536	-	3,046	2,895	151	14,687	
CHARIS - Special Collections	550	-	14,340	14,490	150.00	400	
Recessa/Lent Fund	3,641	-	1,033	-	1,033	4,674	
Prayer Group Collections	25	-	0	25	(25)	-	
Special Collection	5,250	-	0	-	-	5,250	
Collection (Diocese)	610	-	6,155	6,464	(309)	301	
New Church Property Purchase	-	-	37,950	-	37,950	37,950	
	24,611	-	62,524	23,874	38,650	63,261	

- a) Fasting offertory/RTT Cover -funds are used to meet the specific needs of individuals or organisations outside the church who are in dire financial need. It covers broadly three areas i) Educational Aid ii) Medical Aid iii) Other Miscellaneous Aid for the needy.
- b) CHARIS - Special Collections during the year included donations to for emergency Medical help, Manipur Relief work etc.
- c) Reccessa is collected from individual members and paid to the parent church as membership fee (Recessa) of the parent church and Lent fund (Uposhanavaram) is collected during Lent and is used by the parent church towards Orphanages and Destitute Homes (Homeless).

Notes to the accounts for 9 months ended 31st March 2024

- d) Prayer Group Collections are collections made by Area Prayer Group members, to support various charitable activities around the world.
- e) Special Collection during the year was NIL.
- f) Collection (Diocese) are contributions made from our members and remitted to UK, Europe & Africa Diocese.

7 LOAN

There was no loan amount outstanding as at 31st March 2024.

8 ANALYSIS OF ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS DURING THE YEAR

The following assets were bought and capitalised during the year. As against the approved Capital Expenditure Budget of £14,000 for 2023-24, the total spent was £5,634 as detailed below:

Asset description	Cost (£)
a) Church - Speaker & Stand	1,374
b) Church - Table for Audio/Video system	2,500
c) Parsonage - New Boiler	1,760
Total	5,634

9 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Unrestricted Fund

Tangible Fixed Assets
Current Assets
Less: Current Liabilities

Restricted Fund

Total Net Assets

	2023-24*	2022-23
	£	£
	324,279	332,380
	547,332	502,576
	(1,800)	(2,280)
	869,811	832,676
	63,261	18,262
	933,072	850,938

10 Sundry Expenses

- i) CRB Check Expenses

	2023-24*	2022-23
	£	£
	282	-
	282	-

11 MOVEMENT IN CASH BALANCE

Notes

Opening Cash Balance

Net surplus /(deficit)
Depreciation
(Increase)/decrease in debtors
Increase/(decrease) in creditors
Capital expenses

Closing Cash Balance

	2023-24*	2022-23
	£	£
	514,774	446,160
	93,790	60,446
	10,663	13,589
	(746)	(687)
	(3,719)	300
	(5,634)	(885)
	609,127	518,923

* 9 months ending 31st March 2024

St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK

Charity Reg. No. 1203763

Notes to the accounts for 9 months ended 31st March 2024

	2023-24*	2022-23
	£	£
12 SUBSCRIPTION, DONATIONS ETC. - GENERAL FUND		
Subscription from Members	53,387	64,688
Other Donations/Collections	8,125	8,742
Various Offertories	37,127	46,081
Gift Aid	35,994	40,925
	134,633	160,436
13 INCOME FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES - FUNDRAISING EVENTS		
Harvest Festival - Special Projects DF	12,280	11,913
Harvest Festival - Others	12,280	11,913
Cake Sale Collections	0	5,436
	24,561	29,263
14 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE AND EVANGELICAL ACTIVITIES		
Charity - Harvest Festival DF	12,175	-2,000
Charity - Sevika Sangam and Sunday School DF	2,700	4,168
Special Offertory Donations RF	2,895	4,020
Charity + Evangelism (Special Collections) RF	14,515	6,679
Other Charitable Activities	1,479	8,107
	33,764	20,975
15 CHURCH RUNNING COSTS		
Vicar's Salary	23,848	27,946
Parsonage & Bishop Suite Expenses	5,878	6,745
Visa & Vicar Transfer/Ex Gratia DF	72	12,917
Church Utilities/Repairs/Insurance/Legal	17,210	17,996
Motor Expenses incl. Lease Costs & Insurance	6,720	9,218
Special Events Expenses	3,195	2,584
Diocese/Sabha Office	5,900	17,413
Visiting Speaker Expenses	1,350	2,900
Convention & Family Retreat	2,057	400
Printing, Stationery, Telephone etc	2,838	3,835
Bank Charges	586	781
Depreciation	10,663	13,589
Church Organisation Expenses DF	12,239	10,090
Church Development Expenses DF	1,200	-
Regional Events/Conference	3,153	3,125
Diocese Dues Collection from members, paid RF	6,464	-
Sundry/Altar/Harvest Expenses/Ordination Ceremony	2,193	1,672
	105,566	131,211
Special collection from Members		
Fellowship Events Expense	6,445	4,417
Zonal Development Fund RF	-	4,425
	6,445	8,842
	112,011	140,053

16 TRUSTEES REMUNERATION, EXPENSES & DONATIONS

No remuneration or any other financial benefit, either directly or indirectly was paid or is payable out of the funds of the charity to any of the trustees or to any persons known to be connected with the charity except for the Vicar, who is expressly permitted to receive remuneration for his services, as per his employment contract (note 15 above) and housing at the Church Vicarage valued at £19,600 p.a.

During the Nine months ended 31st March 2024, the total amount re-imbursed to the Vicar was £3,326 towards business travel, car fuel, local conveyance, postage, stationery etc.

During the period, the total expenses reimbursed to 10 other trustees towards expenses incurred for and on behalf of the Charity amounted to £5,086

* 9 months ending 31st March 2024

Internal Audit Report of St Johns Mar Thoma Church, UK

To the Members of St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK

We have examined the attached Financial Statements including the Balance Sheet, Statement of Financial Activities and the related Income and Expenditure and Receipt and Payments Accounts of the Church for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2024.

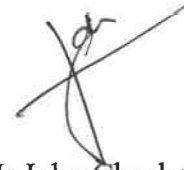
Our responsibility as Internal Auditors is to express an opinion on the Financial Statements the preparation of which is the responsibility of the Trustees.

All the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary, for the audit purposes were made available to us.

In our opinion, based on the information received and the explanation provided to us, the Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the Church as at 31st March 2024.



Mrs Joji Samuel
Internal Auditor



Mr John Chacko
Internal Auditor

Dated 26th May 2024

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



80 - 96 Cambridge Road, Hounslow,
Middlesex, TW4 7BH