

# **St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK**

*Charity Registration Number : 1203763*



**MEMBER OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND  
MEMBER OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRITAIN & IRELAND  
68<sup>th</sup> 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**  
**29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Achsah 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. Aiswarrya 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. 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, 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Glannet 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
<b>Guildford</b>	Second Friday of the month	Mr. Isaac George (Resigned Dec 2024) Dr. Hitesh Mathew (From Jan 2025)
<b>North London</b>	Third Saturday of the month	Mr. Shibu Abraham
<b>Oxford</b>	Third Sunday of the month	Mr. Abraham P. Thomas
<b>Slough</b>	Fourth Friday of the month	Mr. Saji Varghese
<b>South East</b>	Second Saturday of the month	Mr. Sam Cheeran
<b>Staines</b>	First Sunday of the month	Mr. Binu Thomas
<b>Stevenage</b>	Fourth Saturday of the month	Mr. Jose Chacko
<b>West London</b>	Second Saturday of the month	Mr. Gijo Jacob Cherian
<b>Basingstoke</b>	Alternate first Saturdays	Mr. Mridul Thomas
<b>Reading</b>	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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Aleamma 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.

<b>Contribution towards various Charitable causes</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22769</b>

## **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

**Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the charity on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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			
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Income from:</u></b>							
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		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>184,676</b>	<b>24,211</b>	<b>208,888</b>	<b>25,842</b>	<b>234,729</b>	<b>274,366</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>							
<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
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>113,987</b>	<b>30,043</b>	<b>144,030</b>	<b>17,528</b>	<b>161,559</b>	<b>192,232</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>70,689</b>	<b>(5,832)</b>	<b>64,857</b>	<b>8,313</b>	<b>73,170</b>	<b>82,134</b>
<b><u>Transfer between funds</u></b>							
Capital Expenditure	8	1,982	(1,982)	-	-	-	-
Others	5	(33,420)	33,420	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>39,251</b>	<b>25,606</b>	<b>64,857</b>	<b>8,313</b>	<b>73,170</b>	<b>82,134</b>
<b><u>Reconciliation of Funds:</u></b>							
Total funds brought forward		<b>442,358</b>	<b>427,453</b>	<b>869,811</b>	<b>63,261</b>	<b>933,072</b>	<b>850,938</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>481,609</b>	<b>453,059</b>	<b>934,668</b>	<b>71,574</b>	<b>1,006,242</b>	<b>933,072</b>

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

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

### 3 PREPAYMENTS/ADVANCE

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

2024-25	2023-24
£	£
1,608	1,465
13864	-
<b>15,472</b>	<b>1,465</b>

### 4 CREDITORS: AMOUNT FALLING WITHIN ONE YEAR

#### i) Sundry Creditors

**Accruals**  
Independent Examination charges

2024-25	2023-24
£	£
-	-
1,500	1,800
<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,800</b>

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	During the current year					Balance as at
	01 Apr 2024	Transfers from General funds	Collections/ Proceeds	Utilised		Net Movement	31 Mar 2025
				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

- 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.
- Church Car Fund - this fund provides for the planned replacement of Church car in future.
- Church Improvement Fund - provides for cost of major renovation/improvement to the Church premises and towards capital expenditure.
- Church Development Fund - set aside towards Church development including purchase of land and/or worship place and/or vicarage.
- Conference Fund - set aside for meeting any shortfall in hosting Diocesan Conference, when we are the host Parish.
- Reserve / Contingency Fund - set aside for meeting the church running cost in case of an emergency.
- Vicar's Ex-Gratia Fund - amount set aside for the Vicar and payable when he completes his term in the UK.
- 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.
- 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
Recessa/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
	<b>63,261</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,842</b>	<b>17,528</b>	<b>8,313</b>	<b>71,574</b>

- 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.
- CHARIS - Special Collections during the year included donations for help to Wayanad landslide victims
- Recessa 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). 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,982</b>

### 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
£	£
313,411	324,279
622,757	547,332
(1,500)	(1,800)
<b>934,668</b>	<b>869,811</b>
71,574	63,261
<b>1,006,242</b>	<b>933,072</b>

### 10 Sundry Expenses

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

2024-25	2023-24
£	£
-	282
2,093	-
<b>2,093</b>	<b>282</b>

### 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**

2  
3  
4  
8

2024-25	2023-24
£	£
<b>609,127</b>	<b>518,923</b>
73,170	82,134
12,850	13,734
(14,007)	450
(300)	(480)
(1,982)	(5,634)
<b>678,858</b>	<b>609,127</b>

# St Johns Mar Thoma Church UK

Charity Reg. No. 1203763

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

		2024-25	2023-24
		£	£
<b>12 SUBSCRIPTION, DONATIONS ETC. - GENERAL FUND</b>			
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
		<b>158,136</b>	<b>161,521</b>
<b>13 INCOME FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES - FUNDRAISING EVENTS</b>			
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
		<b>24,770</b>	<b>29,611</b>
<b>14 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE AND EVANGELICAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
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
		<b>22,769</b>	<b>31,814</b>
<b>15 CHURCH RUNNING COSTS</b>			
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
		<b>132,160</b>	<b>151,403</b>
<b>Special collection from Members</b>			
Fellowship Events Expense		5,130	6,825
		-	-
		<b>5,130</b>	<b>6,825</b>
		<b>137,290</b>	<b>158,228</b>

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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*



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