

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1204560

St. Marys Indian Orthodox Church, Sunderland
Receipts and payments accounts
For the year ended
31 March 2024

XAVIERS ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED

Chartered Certified Accountants

Suite 3J

Recycling Lives Centre

1A Essex Street

Preston

PR1 1QE

St. Marys Indian Orthodox Church, Sunderland

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

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St. Marys Indian Orthodox Church, Sunderland

Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	St. Marys Indian Orthodox Church, Sunderland
Charity registration number	1204560
Principal office	222 Gleneagles Road Sunderland SR4 9RA

The trustees

Biji Varughese
Raji Thomas
Jerin Joji
Varghese Babu
Annamma Babu
Sheena Philips
Mini Benny
Jinu Varghese

Accountants

Xaviers Accountants Limited
Suite 3J
Recycling Lives Centre
1A Essex Street
Preston
PR1 1QE

St. Marys Indian Orthodox Church, Sunderland

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Structure, governance and management

The trustees present their annual report and the receipts and payments account of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. We continued to meet the primary mission of the church, to meet the spiritual necessities of our community in the area. We continued pursuing our vision, notwithstanding the worldly challenges facing us, reflecting Faith, Hope and Charity at all times.

Governing document

The trust is an unincorporated trust, constituted under a constitution adopted on 01 September 2023 and is a registered charity, number 1204560. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

Objectives of the Charity

Charity's objective is to promote the Orthodox Christian faith. In setting our objectives, and planning our activities, we have given careful consideration to Charity Commission's guidelines on public benefit.

Objectives and activities

The General Body meeting of the Church was held on Saturday 4th of March 2023 after Holy Qurbana at St Joseph's Catholic Church. Rev Fr Happy Jacob presided over the meeting. A new committee was elected to oversee the day-to-day affairs of the parish for the year 2023- 2024. The following committee members were elected:

1. Trustee – Mr Biji Varghese
2. Secretary – Mr Jerin Joji
3. Sunday School Headteacher – Mrs Saramma Sabu
4. MMVS Co-ordinator – Mrs Kunjumole Joy
5. Youth Co-ordinator – Keziah Biji
6. Committee member – Dr Mohan George
7. Committee member – Mr Saji Varkey
8. Committee member – Mr oseph Mathai
9. Internal auditor – Mr Sabu Kadavanthanam.

The committee meeting convened meetings 6 times over the year with more than 75% attendance in all meetings. The committee created an annual calendar for the year and all the events were completed according to the schedule. In addition, by the grace of God, we were able to have additional Holy Qurbana's to celebrate the mandatory feasts of our Church from September.

Our congregation was elevated to the status of a Parish by H.G Abraham Mar Stephanos on 25th March 2023 as per the Letter No E35 and Fr Happy Jacob was appointed as the Vicar to continue his pastoral duties until further orders.

Holy week services 2023 were conducted by Rev Fr Shyju Mathai, which started with Palm Sunday followed by prayers and services throughout the week and concluded with Easter Service on Saturday 8th of April at St Cecilia Church, Sunderland.

St. Marys Indian Orthodox Church, Sunderland

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

A General Body meeting was held on 6th of May 2023 and Dr Mohan George was elected as the Diocese representative from our parish. The annual calendar and budget proposed by the committee was approved by the General Body. General Body also approved the option of moving to St Cecilia Church on a long-term basis to accommodate all our needs, particularly Holy week. By God's Grace, We were able to have our first official Qurbana at St Cecilia Church on Saturday 1st of July, which was celebrated by Rev Fr Varghese P.A.

We received a letter (Letter No E-199) from our Diocesan Metropolitan HG Abraham Mar Stephanos on 21st of July 2023 regarding the transfer of Vicar. The letter stated Fr Happy

Jacob will be relieved of his responsibilities as the vicar on 14th of August 2023 and Rev Fr Varghese P.A will take charge as vicar from 15th of August 2023. A farewell was held for Rev Fr Happy Jacob along with Perunal service on 14th August 2023.

Onam Celebration was held on Saturday 2nd of September after Holy Qurbana along with OVBS final day celebrations. The sadhya was catered externally and it was co-ordinated by Mrs Kunjumol Joy. We were blessed to have our Parish registered as a Charity on 1st of September 2023. I would like to thank everyone involved in this process over the past 2 years, especially Mrs Sheena Biji and Mr Sabu Kadavanthanam, who spent a considerable amount of time formatting our documents and accounts. Also, Phillip and John consultancy Ltd who handled our submission to Charity registration.

Half yearly General Body meeting of the Parish was held on Saturday 7th October 2023 after Holy Qurbana at St Cecilia Church, Sunderland. The General Body decided to change the regular services to Sundays from March 2024 and increase the number of regular services to twice a month from April 2024. The regular services will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month. General Body also decided to create a Facebook page for the parish to increase the reach and appointed Miss Della Sabu as the admin. The Facebook page has been active with over 182 followers as of the end of March 2024.

Feast of St Gregorios of Parumala was celebrated on Saturday 2nd November 2023 along with Holy Qurbana followed by the Harvest Festival. Harvest Festival was a great success, I would like to thank all our kind members for their offerings and active participation in the auction.

Christmas Carols were held on Saturday 2nd December 2023 after Holy Qurbana covering the Sunderland area and on Saturday 16th December 2023 for the all the other areas. Caroling was coordinated by Mr Sabu Kadavanthanam and Mr Joji Abraham, I would like to thank the pair of them for all their hard work and efforts to organise everything. Also, Thanking all our members for their kind offerings. Christmas service was held on Sunday 24th December at 6pm at St Cecilia Church Sunderland, Holy Qurbana was celebrated by the Vicar, Rev Fr Varghese P.A.

Our Church was able to participate in the Northeast Ecumenical Christmas Carols at English Martyrs Church, Newcastle which was organised by Marthoma Church on Saturday 13th January 2024. 22 of our members were able to participate as a choir to represent our Parish.

St. Marys Indian Orthodox Church, Sunderland

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

General Body meeting of the Church was held on Sunday 3rd March 2024 after Holy Qurbana, and a new committee has been elected to oversee the day to day affairs of the Parish from 1ST of April 2024. The following members were elected:

1. Treasurer – Mrs Kunjumol Joy
2. Secretary – Dr Mohan George
3. Sunday School Headteacher – Mrs Saramma Sabu
4. MMVS Secretary – Mrs Merin Mary Shaji
5. Youth Secretary – Miss Kerlin Biji
6. Committee Member – Mr Jinu George
7. Committee Member – Mr Raji Thomas
8. Committee Member – Mr Biji Varghese (Ex official)
9. Committee Member – Mr Jerin Joji (Ex official)
10. Internal auditor – Mr Baiju Thomas

Holy week services 2024 was led by the Vicar Rev Fr Varghese P.A St Cecilia Church, which started with Palm Sunday, followed by evening prayers and services throughout and concluded with Easter on Saturday 30th January. Holy Qurbana was celebrated for the feast of the annunciation on Sunday 24th January 2024 at 6pm.

Sunday School

Sunday School have been conducting regular lessons for pupils; online and in person after Holy Qurbana. Five Sunday school teachers were able to attend the Teachers conference at St Thomas Church in Hemel, London on Saturday 29th April 2023. The unit level talent competition was held on Sunday 23rd of April 2023 at St Cecilia Church and North Zonal talent competition was held at St Thomas Church, Liverpool. Many of our students, teachers and parents attended the North Zonal Competition. Sunday School Sports day was scheduled to be held at Herrington Country Park on Saturday 1st of July but had to be held indoors due to poor weather conditions. Half yearly examinations were held on Sunday 15th July and OVBS were held on the 26th and 27th August 2023 followed final day celebrations on Saturday 2nd September 2024. OVBS was conducted under the spiritual guidance of the Vicar Rev Fr Varghese P.A. Annual examinations for classes 1-7 took place on 10th December 2023 at St Cecilia Church, Sunderland and Class 9 took their Sunday school exam on 30th December 2023 to accommodate their GCSE examinations.

On Saturday 3rd February 2024, Vicar Rev Fr Varghese P.A launched the new Sunday school curriculum Talmido in the presence of students, teachers, and parents. Sunday School annual day was held on the same day.

St. Marys Indian Orthodox Church, Sunderland

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

MMVS

MMVS has been conducting regular prayer meetings every month. Annual retreat which was scheduled for February 2023 was conducted on Sunday 2nd of April 2023 at St Joseph's Church, Sunderland. The session was led by Rev Fr Shyju Mathai. A group of MMVS members attended North Zonal Conference at St George Church, Manchester on Saturday 17th of June 2023.

I would like to thank all the MMVS members for their active participation in arranging refreshments for our parish on several occasions. They were able to organise a food fest on Saturday 1st of July, which was a huge success. By God's Grace, MMVS were able to raise a total of £750 from the food fest and other offerings as Charity fund, which was donated to a lady with a medical need.

A one-day retreat for MMVS members was held on Sunday 22nd October 2023 at St Cecilia Church, the session was led by the Vicar. The annual MMVS Diocese conference was held at Holy Innocents Church, Wales and 4 of our MMVS members were able to attend the event.

Youth

Youth members held a charity car wash on Saturday 26th of August, which was a great success as they managed to collect over £500. This amount was donated towards to the educational need for a Student in Kerala. Four of our youth members attended a North Zonal meeting at Liverpool on 21st of October 2023. Six members from our youth led an online evening prayer during Great Lent, which was organised by the Diocese in collaboration with member of Glasgow Church, on 19th of February 2024.

The church has been able to accomplish a lot and progress in various ways throughout the last year. I thank our God almighty, our Vicar, Committee, and all our members for all your prayers and support.

Financial Review

The charity's principal funding source is from donations and from other activities.

Reserve policy

It is policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately six months unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management and administration and support costs.

The trustees' annual report was approved and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Jerin Joji
Trustee



Date: 10/1/2025



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

Period start
01-Sep-23


To

Period end date
31-Mar-24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Offertory	1,246	-	-	1,246	
Subscription	5,600	-	-	5,600	
Sunday School Donations	720	-	-	720	
Food Donations Received	431	-	-	431	
Perunal Offerings	100	-	-	100	
Harvest Festival Auction	968	-	-	968	
Other Donations	190	-	-	190	
Passion Week Receipts - 2023	225	-	-	225	
Passion Week Receipts - 2024	1,081	-	-	1,081	
Onam Donations	649	-	-	649	
Christmas Donations Received	1,650	-	-	1,650	
Martha Mariyam Samajam Receipts	596	-	-	596	
Youth Charity Donations Received	175	-	-	175	
Birthday Donations	50	-	-	50	
Wedding Anniversary Donations Received	20	-	-	20	
Orthodox Sangamam Receipts	270	-	-	270	
Diocese Day Collection	665	-	-	665	
Surplus income from previous period	9,836	-	-	9,836	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	24,471	-	-	24,471	-
A2 Asset and investment sales					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	24,471	-	-	24,471	-
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A3 Payments					
Reimbursement Vicar's Expenses	2,000	-	-	2,000	
Rent For Church	800	-	-	800	
Sunday School Expenses	783	-	-	783	
Snack Box/Food Expenses	1,184	-	-	1,184	
Printing & Stationery	160	-	-	160	
Holy Qurbana Expenses	274	-	-	274	
Passion Week Expenses - 2024	794	-	-	794	
Onam Expenses	1,265	-	-	1,265	
Christmas Expenses	56	-	-	56	
Martha Mariyam Samajam Payments	1,753	-	-	1,753	
Youth League Expenses	686	-	-	686	
Diocese Contributions Paid	1,935	-	-	1,935	
Repairs & Maintenance	200	-	-	200	
Entertainment Expenses	230	-	-	230	
Professional Fees	373	-	-	373	
Sub total	12,492	-	-	12,492	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	12,492	-	-	12,492	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	11,979	-	-	11,979	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	11,979	-	-	11,979	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in hand	6	-	-
	Cash at the Bank - Current Account	11,973	-	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	11,979	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				-
				-
				-
				-
				-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Jerin Joji	10/1/2025	