



## ST. MARY ' S INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Northwest London (Charity Registration: 1204724)

Worshipping at: St. Anselm's Church, Station Road  
Hayes. UB3 4DF

Registered at: 44, Fircroft Close, Tilehurst  
Reading. RG31 6LJ

### Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Date: 01<sup>st</sup> March 2024

*In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. – Ephesians 2:21-22*

#### Reference and Administrative Information:

<b>Name of Charity:</b>	St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Congregation, Northwest London
<b>Diocese:</b>	Diocese of UK, Europe and Africa
<b>Charity registration No.:</b>	1204724
<b>Registered Address:</b>	44, Fircroft Close, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 6LJ
<b>Worshipping at:</b>	St. Anselm's Parish Church, Station Road, Hayes, UB3 4DF

#### Management:

The Vicar/priest in charge of the congregation is appointed by the Diocesan Metropolitan of the UK, Europe & Africa Diocese of the Malankara (Indian) Orthodox Syrian Church. The Vicar for the period from April-July 2023 was Fr. P J Binu with the last day of service was 31 July 2023. From 01 August 2023, Fr. Shyju P. Mathai was appointed as Vicar/Priest in charge of the Congregation vide communication from Diocesan Metropolitan (E-186/AMS/2023 dt. 03 July 2023). The Vicar is the Chair of the Management Committee and all spiritual organizations in the Congregation.

The trustees of the Congregation were duly appointed through the General Body Meeting held on April 2023 for the period 2023-24.

Mr. Jobin George as Hon. Treasurer

Mr. Nishin George as Hon. Secretary

The other trustees of the Congregation are:

Mr. Bittoy George, Mr. Lajeev Rajan, Mrs. Nimmy Varghese, Mrs. Bennette Roshan, Mr. Stanlin Johnson and Mr. Shiji Varghese.

Mr. Jose John was appointed as the Internal Auditor.

For the spiritual development of the members of the Congregation, following organizations were also started with corresponding leaders:

Sunday School - Headmistress – Mrs. Shiju Chacko

OCYM (Marian Youth Fellowship) - Secretary – Mr. Nevin Jose

MMVS (Women Fellowship) - Secretary – Mrs. Ramya Jerry

Diocesan Representative nominated and appointed – Mr. Bittoy George

## Church activities:

**Holy Qurbana & Divine services:** The Holy Eucharist services were initially conducted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday evenings, but from August 2023, the services were conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday afternoons to better suit the needs of the community. The services were conducted primarily in Malayalam language, but from January 2024, one service in a month has been conducted in English.

In the month of June 2023, one of the Holy Eucharist services was led by the Diocesan Metropolitan H. G. Abraham Mar Stephanos.

**Member list:** At the beginning of the year in April 2023, we started with 20 families as registered members. Currently we have 43 families registered with the Congregation. 3 families have left the Congregation as they have moved to Church/Congregation to their current place of residence. We currently have families from Ashford, Ealing, Harrow, Hounslow, Reading, Staines, Slough and Uxbridge regions as communicant members of the Congregation.

**Charity Commission and HMRC Registration:** The Managing Committee members were successful in registering the Congregation as a Charity organization with UK Charity Commission and also with the HMRC to avail of Gift Aid on all the donations received by the Congregation.

**Holy Baptism:** During the year 2023-24, we were able to provide the sacrament of Holy Baptism to four individuals – 3 children and 1 adult, welcoming them to body of Christ, the Church. One of the sacraments was officiated by the Diocesan Metropolitan H. G. Abraham Mar Stephanos.

**Marriage Announcement (Banns):** Marriage announcement was held for 1 member of the Congregation and Marriage Banns/Kurri was issued when no objections were raised after announcing the marriage.

**Family Get-together:** Family get-together for all the families in our community was organized on 27 August 2023 at Brent Park, Hanwell where more than 15 families came together to spend time in games and fun activities.

**Harvest Festival:** First fruits auction or Harvest Festival was held in the month of November 2023. As decided by the Management Committee, 75% of the proceeds received at the Harvest Festival would be used for external charity works.

**Christmas Carols:** Christmas Carol rounds were held during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of December and we were able to visit 16 families to spread the message of birth of Jesus Christ.

**Christmas Nativity (Get-together):** Christmas Nativity program to encourage the talents of our young children and to spend some time together was held on 17 December 2023. We were also blessed with the presence of Very Rev Abraham George Chor-episcopoi, Mrs. Elizabeth George Kochamma, Fr. Mathew Cashmore and Fr. Josiah of St. Anselm's Parish Church, Hayes.

**Christmas Service:** The service of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ was held on the evening of 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023. This was the first time the Christmas service was held in the congregation.

**Holy Confession:** Opportunity to avail of the Sacrament of Holy Confession has been made available to the faithful members of the congregation from January 2024. Many members have come forward and availed themselves of this opportunity.

**Great Lent 2024:** During the Great Lent of 2024, the Holy Eucharist services are being held on all the Sundays in the afternoon. Also, the services of the Palm Sunday, Holy (Maundy) Thursday, Holy (Good) Friday and Feast of the Resurrection (Easter) have been planned to be held. This is the first time that the Holy Week services are being planned to be held within the Congregation.

**Diocesan Contributions:** Every family in the Diocese was informed to contribute £30 towards the Diocesan activities and plans for the year. The Managing Committee decided to only ask the members an addition of £5 to their monthly subscription of £25 for the month of September 2023 and the Congregation would transfer the £30 so



collected in the month of September 2023 as Diocesan Contributions to the Diocese. Diocesan Contributions transferred £1000 in January 2024.

**Catholicate Day Collections:** Catholicate Day collections of £110 were received and transferred to the Diocese.

**Charity Works:** With the proceeds of the harvest festival, our congregation has been able to extend a helping hand towards our host – St. Anselm's Parish Church, Hayes, for their charity activities like running a food centre for the needy and café to speak and listen to the troubled members of the community.

We have also extended financial grant to a cancer patient, who is an ex-staff of the Hillingdon Hospital NHS trust to meet her financial needs for cancer medications.

The Managing Committee members of their own accord engaged in providing legal help and support to an international student who was communing with us during the months of May-June 2023. They were also involved in speaking with the students' parents back in India comforting them and providing them with regular updates. Diocesan Metropolitan was also kept in loop of all the developments.

**Sunday School:** We have a total 31 students in our Sunday School through all the grades up to Grade 10. We had 2 students in Grade 10 in the year 2023, who have cleared their exams with distinction.

**Unit level and Zonal level competition:** In the month of May 2023, we conducted the Unit level talent competition among our students and the winners from this competition presented their talents in the zonal competition at Canterbury church. Our children represented our congregation in a fabulous manner, and we were ranked 4<sup>th</sup> among all the churches of the zone.

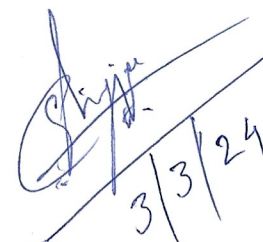
**Diocesan Competition:** Master Kevin Jose, who won the elocution in the zonal competition, successfully represented our congregation at the Diocesan competition and won accolades at the Diocesan level competition.

**Daily Evening prayers:** Under the initiation of the Headmistress, Mrs. Shiju Chacko, with the intent of creating a disciple of prayer life among the children, the Sunday School children have been leading in the daily evening prayers in English since the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January 2024. The prayers are conducted on all days apart from the days of the great lent and Saturdays and Sundays.

**Youth Fellowship (Marian Youth):** Our youth has been representing our congregation at conferences held at St. Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church, Brockley and St. George's Indian Orthodox Church, City of London and at the leadership camp in Kent. They have also actively helped during all the activities of the congregation.

**Women Fellowship (MMVS):** There has been an active representation of the members of MMVS at the various conferences held in and around London during the year. They have also actively helped during the family get together and the harvest festival.

The work and the activities of the Congregation would not be successful without the support and prayers of our members throughout this period. As this was the first year of the Congregation, there has been a massive support from all our members who were willing to donate every item that we use in our services. From the very Thaksa, candles, candle stands, incense, books, all the items have come from our members. The members of the Managing Committee for the year 2023-24, thank everyone for their support and prayers.



FR. SHYJU

P. MATHAI

Registered Charity No: 1204724

# ST. MARY'S INDIAN ORTHODOX CONGREGATION, HAYES

Northwest London (Charity Registration: 1204724)

Income and Expenditure Statement for 2023-24 (as on 31st March 2024)

INCOMES	Amount	Amount	EXPENSES	Amount	Amount
<b>Donations</b>		7,017.24	<b>General Expenses</b>		8,501.97
- Regular Donation	4,094.92		- Church programme***	155.20	
- Baptism	156.00		- Consumables	1,039.65	
- Christmas Donation	680.00		- Courier charges	307.00	
- Holy Week Donations	2,086.32		- Sound system hire	650.00	
Catholic Day Contributions		150.00	- Youth Cake purchase	1,389.60	
Diocesan Day Contributions		1,010.00	- Food expenses	4,363.61	
Offertory		8,230.68	- Accounting platform	65.00	
Membership fees		8,271.17	- Achen Binu Send-off	200.00	
			- Cab charges	331.91	
<b>Registration</b>		295.00	Public Liability Insurance		100.8
-OSSAE Students (2023)	160.00		<b>Website charges</b>		49.13
-OSSAE Students (2024)	135.00				
<b>Church Activities</b>		6,578.50	<b>Registration</b>		1,005.00
- Family Get together	172.00		-OSSAE UK Diocese	740.00	
- Auction	2,674.00		-MMVS UK Diocese	45.00	
- Leicester Trip (Mesthooso)	385.00		- UK Diocesan Meeting	30.00	
- Sunday School activities	540.00		- OCYM Conference	190.00	
- Orthodox Samgamam	60.00		Gifts & Entertainment		50.96
- Cake bake sale	401.00		Transport		1,350.00
- Fund transfer*	2,346.50				
Contribution for books		100	<b>Rent</b>		4,600.00
			-St. Anselm's Church, Hayes	3,600.00	
			-Saffron Dor	1,000.00	
			<b>Diocesan Activities</b>		1,390.00
			- Catholicate Day Collection	150.00	
			- Mesthooso registration	50.00	
			- Diocesan Contribution	1,000.00	
			- Orthodox Samgamam	190.00	
			<b>Charity Activities</b>		1,500.00
			- Towards individuals	1,000.00	
			- Towards St. Anselm as Charity	500.00	
			Priest Charges		8,000.00
			Bishop Charges		500.00
			Visiting Priest Charges		250.00
			Surplus Income		4,354.73
		31,652.59			31,652.59

## Notes:

\* Expense of Church program are the expenses borne during Family Gettogether and Christmas gettogether

Of the rent paid towards Saffron Dor for the Holy (Good Friday) service, £500 is refundable - Received in April '24

Transport charges are expenses incurred by Trustee for the transportation of church assets



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

ST. MARY'S INDIAN ORTHODOX CONGREGATION, NORTHWEST  
LONDON

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Charity no

1204724

Set out on pages

1-2

Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent  
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent  
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act other than that disclosed below; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

18<sup>th</sup> September  
2024

Name:

Rachel Eden

<b>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):</b>	ACMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants)
<b>Address:</b>	Holy Brook Associates, Curious Lounge, 1st Floor, Pinnacle Building,
	Tudor Road, Reading, England,
	RG1 1NH

<b>Section B</b>	<b>Disclosure</b>
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