



MAR THOMA CHURCH CANTERBURY, KENT, UK

REGISTERED CHARITY: 1205614

A Parish of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in UK, Europe & Africa Diocese,

Member of the Churches Together in United Kingdom & Ireland

Member of Churches Together in England



ST ANDREWS CHURCH, MAIDSTONE, ME16 9AN

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Mar Thoma Church Canterbury, Kent, UK

Registered Charity: 1205614

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

Mar Thoma Church Canterbury is entering in to the 10th Anniversary and let us thank God Almighty for the marvellous ways in which God leads our faith journey in this land. As we introspect, we could see many milestones in the chronicles of our parish. Yes, we need to acknowledge that we are a called-out community to carry out the mission of God through the ministry of the church. Let us continue to shine our light before others and be a lighted lamp in the county of Kent. Let us join our hands together to pray for the continuous growth of the church especially having our own place of worship.

Worshipping Place

The St Andrews Church, St Andrews Road, Maidstone, ME16 9LW, continues to be our worshipping place. This Church is located at the geographical centre of Kent County with ease of access. We chose this place with a vision to obtain more involvement of families in and around Kent County to come together and enjoy the fellowship and the ministry of Mar Thoma Church Canterbury.

Our Vicar and family

Rev Jacob PT was appointed as our Vicar w.e.f. 1st of May 2023. The church was energised and blessed by his able, enthusiastic leadership and concern. Let us pray to strengthen Achen in all his service to our parish.

Jessy Kochamma is a pillar in the service of Achen and is a key member of the choir. They have two daughters Daya and Diya.

Membership

As per our Edavaka register, as of the 31st of March 2025, we have 68 families with a total of 150 Edavaka Sangam members.

The Managing Committee

The office bearers' election for the year 2024 - 25 was held on the 17th February 2024. The vicar presided over the meeting.

The following are elected and served as the office bearers for the year 2024 – 25.

Vice President	: Mr Sherry Kurian
Trustee (Finance)	: Mr Varughese Abraham
Trustee (Accounts)	: Mr Rony Eapen Mathew
Secretary	: Mr Joe Jacob Varughese
Lay Leaders	: Mr Jobby Kurien George
	: Mr Sony Jacob
Mandalam Representative	: Mr Chacko Peedikakizhakathil
Assembly Member	: Mrs Annamma Chacko
Sunday School Secretary	: Mrs Nisha Oommen
Sevika Sangam Secretary	: Mrs Abeny Susan Abraham
Edavaka Mission Secretary	: Mr Jobby Kurien George
Edavaka Mission Representative	: Mr Mathew K Varghese
Youth Fellowship Secretary	: Mr Joel Kuruvilla John
Choir Secretary	: Mr Siju Thomas
Prayer Group A Representative	: Mr P K Oommen
Prayer group B Representative	: Mrs Lisha Baby
Auditors	: Mr Lijo Jacob
	: Mr Sujumone Kutty

The office bearers' election for the year 2025 - 26 was held on the 17th February 2024. The vicar presided over the meeting.

The following are elected and serving as the office bearers for the year 2025 – 26.

Vice President	:	Mr Mody M Koshy
Trustee (Finance)	:	Mr Varughese Abraham
Trustee (Accounts)	:	Mr Rony Eapen Mathew
Secretary	:	Mr Joe Jacob Varughese
Lay Leaders	:	Mr Jobby Kurien George
	:	Mr Sony Jacob
Mandalam Representative	:	Mr Chacko Peedikakizhakathil
Assembly Member	:	Mrs Annamma Chacko
Sunday School Secretary	:	Mrs Reeja Jacob
Sevika Sangam Secretary	:	Mrs Shyla Susan Chacko
Edavaka Mission Secretary	:	Mr Jobby Kurien George
Choir Secretary	:	Mr Siju Thomas
Prayer Group A Representative	:	Mrs Reeja Jacob
Prayer group B Representative	:	Mrs Lisha Baby
Auditors	:	Mr Leo Paul
	:	Mr Tiju Thomas

Parish Activities for the Year 2024 – 25

Worship and Other Services

The Holy Communion service is celebrated on the first and third Saturdays at 10.30 am every month and Divine Service on fourth Sunday at 5.00 pm every month.

We also celebrate special services like World Sunday School Day, Sevika Sangham Day, Education Sunday, Family Sunday, Senior Citizens Day, Youth Sunday and Holy week services. Holy Communion service in English is celebrated once in every two months.

Passion Week Services

Lenten meditations were held at member's home and online since 27th March 2025 led by Rev Jacob P T. We thank the members who opened their homes for the meditations.

Parish Day

Our 9th Parish Day was celebrated on 30th November 2024, with Holy Communion Service celebrated by Rev Soju M Thomas and Rev Jacob PT, followed by a Parish Day meeting. The secretary presented the parish day report. Members contributed their one-day income to the parish as an offering to support the mission of the Church.

Students who passed their GCSE were felicitated on Parish Day.

Parish Convention

The parish convention was held on 29th November at Singleton Village Hall, Ashford and 30th November 2024 at St Andrews Church, Maidstone. Rev Soju M Thomas (Vicar, St James Mar Thoma Church, London) was the main speaker. Edavaka Mission organised the Parish convention activities and we thank Mr Jobby K George, who served as the convenor, for all his efforts.

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival was celebrated on 7th September 2024, with a thanksgiving service during Holy Communion Service and auctioning the home-grown fruits, vegetables, plants, and homemade snacks after the service. We thank all the families who prepared food for sale and all who wholeheartedly participated in the auction. We thank Mr Jobby K George, who served as the convenor of the Harvest Festival, for all his efforts.

VBS 2024

Our parish VBS was held on 27th, 28th and 29th May 2024 at Leybourne village hall and were led by the Directors Mr Cibi Mathew and Mrs Sunu Cibi. This year's VBS had 62 children, 15 teachers and 15 volunteers. The theme of the year was "Go Pro". Under the guidance of Rev Jacob PT, with support from all the teachers and members of the parish, we were able to enrich the VBS and enable our children to have spiritual nourishment. We thank Mrs Annamma Chacko and Mr Rony Eapen Mathew, who served as convenors, for all their efforts.

Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service was held on 14th December 2024. The theme for Carol service was Bethlehem. The Choir led the Carol Service with splendid carols. Rev Jacob PT delivered the Christmas message. The Sunday School children performed a song and a skit, Sevika Sangam sang a song, Prayer Group A performed a Nativity and Prayer Group B performed a skit. Let us thank God for the talents bestowed on the members of our parish and the memorable Carol Service of 2024.

Christmas Service

Christmas Service was held on 24th December 2024 at St Andrews Church, Maidstone.

Watch Night Service

The year-ending watch night service and Holy Communion Service was held on 31st December 2024, celebrated by Rev Jacob P T. The congregation had the opportunity to reflect on the abundant blessings they received from the Almighty Lord over the years, shared their testimonies and adopted new year resolutions. The session was led by Mr Jobby K George. The candlelight ceremony was held to welcome the new year.

Monthly Prayer Meetings

Prayer Group A

The Prayer Group A covers the areas of Maidstone, Gillingham, Tunbridge Wells, Hastings, Eastbourne, Caterham, Redhill, Gravesend, London and Basildon and holds a monthly prayer meeting on the first Friday of every month in the house of a family member. Mr P K Oommen served as the Prayer Group Secretary.

Prayer Group B

The Prayer Group B covers the areas of Ashford, Canterbury, Margate and Folkestone and holds their monthly prayer on the third Friday of every month in the house of a family member. Mrs Lisha Baby served as the prayer group B secretary.

Organisations Activities

Sunday School

During this educational year 2024, we had a total of 76 children from nursery to year 10 and 15 dedicated teachers in our Sunday school. We thank Rev Jacob P T for his continuing leadership and guidance to our Sunday school. Mrs Mariamma Chacko is serving as the head teacher and London Centre coordinator. Mrs Nisha Oommen served as the secretary and Mrs Rincy Jose served as treasurer.

Special Dedication Prayers Education Sunday

Education Sunday was observed on 7th September 2024. A special dedication service was held during the Holy Communion Service.

Sevika Sangam

Sevika Sangam continues to empower the women in our church. Members attended the Sevika Sangam Zonal Conference and participated in the Bible Quiz Competition. Mrs Annamma Chacko served as the South Zonal secretary during this year. Mrs Abeny Susan Abraham served as secretary and Mrs Raji Thomas served as treasurer.

Edavaka Mission

Canterbury Mar Thoma Edavaka mission remained steadfast in its commitment to fostering strong family bonds and deepening spiritual connections under the guidance of Rev Jacob PT through regular intercessory prayer on every 2nd Saturdays. These gatherings provided a platform of collective introspection, repentance, and spiritual renewal. Edavaka mission is dedicated to expanding its outreaching efforts, reaching more families, and addressing evolving needs, with focus on building a community where faith flourishes, family thrive, and love abounds. Mr Jobby K George served as the Secretary and Mr Sanju Varghese served as treasurer.

Youth Fellowship

The youth fellowship had a year filled with enriching activities. The youth fellowship engaged in valuable sessions online and in church under the leadership of Rev Jacob PT. Mr Joel Kuruvilla John served as the secretary and Mr Jaden Varghese Jacob served as the treasurer.

Parish Choir

Parish choir is registered with DSMC. The Choir leads us in singing for our Worship Services and other special services under the guidance and leadership of Rev Jacob P T. Choir held an audition on 19th October 2024 to take new members in to the choir and currently has 30 members. The Parish Choir has been instrumental in leading the service in solemn. Mr Mathew Varghese served as choir leader, Mr Siju Thomas served as the secretary, and Mr John Sibin Thottathil served as the treasurer.

Charity & Welfare Fund

Welfare Fund is used to support the needy among the members and others. The funds are distributed to deserving applicants as decided by the Committee of the Church. During the year, we contributed £1000 towards Wayanad Relief Fund, £451.18 towards Sankeshwar Mar Thoma Mission and £410 towards Demelza charity which was a joint venture by Sunday School and Youth Fellowship.

Housewarming

The houses of Mr and Mrs Bijulal Thomas, Mr and Mrs Sanju Varghese, Mr and Mrs Bipin Rajan, Mr and Mrs Alexander Baby, Mr and Mrs Tittu Thomas Jacob and Mr and Mrs Jobby K George were blessed during this year.

Episcopal Visit and First Holy Communicants

We were honoured by the auspicious first visit of our Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. PD Dr. Joseph Mar Ivanios Episcopa on 23rd June 2024. 11 children received their first holy communion.

Clergy Visit and Other Speakers

We were fortunate to have the presence, and inspiring messages of Rev Sanoj Babu Mathew, Rev Subin Mathew, Rev John Mathew C and Rev Soju M Thomas. We record our appreciation for their message, guidance, and their service during the visit. We also express our sincere thanks to Commodore P Koshy Varghese, Mr Jobby K George, Mr Rony Eapen Mathew, Mrs Nisha Oommen, Miss Rachel Mammachan, Mrs Annamma Chacko, Mrs Rincy Jose, Mr Joel Kuruvilla John and Dr Christy Varghese for their inspiring message and assistance with worship service.

Felicitation

We extended our congratulations and felicitated Mr Sojan Joseph, honourable MP of Ashford constituency since 4th July 2024.

Obituary

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families who have lost their loved ones in the UK and India this year.

UK & Europe Zone Activities

UK & Europe Zone held the following activities – Edavaka Mission Intercessory Prayer, Lent & Passion Liturgical Hymns Learning Program, Ecumenical meeting, You Mat Student Ministry, VBS training, World Sunday School Day, Sunday School Teacher's Retreat, South Zone Sevika Sangam program, Sevika Sangam Conference, Youth Online Worship Sessions, Youth Conference and Christmas Carol Service.

Diocese Inauguration

Diocese Inauguration was held on 29th September 2024 at Bethel Convention Centre, Birmingham and we as a parish, participated in this meeting actively. It was an historical event with the presence of 5 of our bishops including the Metropolitan and Saffragan Metropolitans along with bishops from sister churches and distinguished guests.

Finance


From 7th November 2023 – 31st March 2025, we have an income of £119,940.77 (One Hundred and Nineteen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty pounds and Seventy-Seven Pence), and an expenditure of £88,598.48 (Eighty-Eight Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety-Eight Pounds and Forty-Eight Pence), with an income over expenditure of £31,342.29 (Thirty-One Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty-Two Pounds and Twenty-Nine Pence).

We express our sincere thanks to our Vicar, Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members, Internal Auditors and Area Representatives for their support and cooperation.

Finally, we express our gratitude and sincere thanks to everyone who has participated in the overall activity of the parish through prayers, presence and financial support.

The Lord has been gracious to us in leading our Church in a blessed manner. We have been provided with resources sufficient for the smooth functioning of the parish. Our participation in various mission activities of the Parish, Diocese and Sabha have helped grow and expand the Kingdom of God through various missions. Let us stand united in our efforts and proclaim the good news to the creation, and as a faith community, let us march forward.

For and on behalf of the Managing Committee of Mar Thoma Church Canterbury.



Rev Jacob PT
Vicar



Joe Jacob Varughese
Secretary

Mar Thoma Church Canterbury, Kent, UK

Registered Charity: 1205614

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FROM 7th NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds	Total Funds
		General Funds	Designated Funds	Total		
Income		£	£	£	£	£
Subscription & Donations	2,3&9	75,017.64	9,148.71	84,166.35	29,938.70	114,105.05
Other Activities- Fundraising Events	10	5,594.00	-	5,594.00	-	5,594.00
Bank Interest		-	241.72	241.72	-	241.72
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total Income		80,611.64	9,390.43	90,002.07	29,938.70	119,940.77

Expenditure on Charitable Activities						
Church Running Costs	12	48,347.61	5,837.19	54,184.80	16,717.50	70,902.30
Other Charity Program	11	-	-	-	17,696.18	17,696.18
Total Expenditure		48,347.61	5,837.19	54,184.80	34,413.68	88,598.48
Net Balance		32,264.03	3,553.24	35,817.27	-4,474.98	31,342.29
Transfer Between Funds						
Capital Expenditure	2&3	-6,548.25	1500.00		5,048.25	-
Net Movement in Funds		25,715.78	5,053.24	30,769.02	573.27	31,342.29
Reconciliation of Funds		-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds Brought Forward		109,014.34	15,981.50	124,995.84	-2,764.52	122,231.32
Total Funds Carried Forward		134,730.12	21,034.74	155,764.86	-2,191.25	153,573.61

❖ The charity's income and expenditure are related to continuing operations. The charity has no gains or losses from 7th November 2023 – 31st March 2025 other than those shown above. The surplus for the year comprising of the net incoming unrestricted fund and restricted fund equals **£31,342.29**.

❖ Notes 1 to 13 on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as of 31 st March 2025		
	Note	7 th November 2023 – 31 st March 2025
		£
Fixed Assets	5	-
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	8	153,573.61
Accruals	-	-
Total	-	153,573.61
Current Liabilities		
Creditors: Amount Falling Due Within 1 Year	4	-
Net Current Assets	-	153,573.61
Net Assets	-	153,573.61
Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted Funds		
i. General Funds	-	134,730.12
ii. Designated funds	2	21,034.74
Total	-	155,764.86
Restricted Fund	3	-2,191.25
Total Funds	-	153,573.61

Mr Varughese Abraham
Trustee Finance

Mr Rony Eapen Mathew
Trustee Accounts

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 for within the accounting year. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations and legacy is recognised when the income is received.

Resources Expended

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

Funds

General Funds represent 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 note 2. Restricted Funds are those funds that must be spent for specific charity purposes as specified by the donor (Refer to note 3)

2. Designated Funds

The accumulated unrestricted funds of the charity include the following designated funds, which have been set aside from general funds by the parish/organisational trustees for specific purposes.

	Balance brought forward	During the Current Year					Balance as at 31 st March 2025
		Transfers from General Funds	Collections /Proceeds	Utilised		Net Movement	
				Capital Exp	Other Exp		
Vicar’s Transfer Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDF (Bank Interest Included)	9,978.96	-	1,425.55	-	-	1,425.55	11,404.51
Choir	60.00	1000.00	418.00	-	1,159.74	258.26	318.26
Edavaka Mission	434.55	-	554.00	-	-	554.00	988.55
Youth Fellowship	1,929.07	-	130.00	-	-	130.00	2,059.07
Sevika Sangam	2,260.16	-	575.00	-	316.16	258.84	2,519.00
Sunday School	568.76	-	6,287.88	-	4,361.29	1,926.59	2,495.35
Church Assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission Outside Parish	750.00	500.00	-	-	-	500.00	1,250.00
Total	15,981.50	1,500.00	9,390.43	-	5,837.19	5,053.24	21,034.74

- Vicar's Transfer Fund - for the expenses incurred for Vicar and his family upon their transfer to and from the United Kingdom.
- CDF (Church Development Fund) - set aside towards Church development, including purchasing land/worship place/vicarage.
- Choir, Edavaka Mission, Youth Fellowship, Sevika Sangam, and Sunday School are internal organisations of the parish, and funds are managed autonomously by themselves through the parish accounts.
- Church Assets - It is an earmarked contribution received from the parish Youth Fellowship to purchase or update the parish music system.
- Mission Outside Parish - It is designated for mission activities outside the parish by the initiative of parishioners, individually or collectively.

3. Restricted Funds

	Balance brought forward	During the Current Year				Balance as at 31 st March 2025
		Transfers from General Funds	Collections	Utilised	Net Movement	
ODI 25% RTSF	2,345.65	1,373.25	1380.00	2,801.18	-47.93	2,297.72
Sp. Collections	-	-	1,416.70	1,410.00	6.70	6.70
Raceessa/Lent	586.50	-	562.00	-	562.00	1,148.50
Charity Special PCR	-	-	13430.00	13485.00	-55.00	-55.00
Dioce Collecti/ Arrears	-996.67	3,675.00	1,800.00	6,425.00	-950.00	-1946.67
Fellowship Meal	-1750.00		11,350.00	10,292.50	1057.50	-692.50
Zonal Develop Fund	-2950.00	-	-	-	-	-2,950.00
Total	-2,764.52	5,048.25	29,938.70	34,413.68	573.27	-2,191.25

- i. One Day Income 25% / RT&SF 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 people in need.
- ii. Special collection for Wayanad Relief fund and Demelza Charity.
- iii. Raceessa is collected from individual members and paid to the parent church as a contribution (Raceessa) for the maintenance of Bishops, and the Lent fund (Uposhanam) is collected during Lent and is used by the parent church towards Orphanages and Destitute Homes (Homeless).
- iv. Zonal Collection is made from our members and remitted to our Zonal (UK and Europe) Office.
- v. The Zonal Development Fund is specially collected towards the construction of the Office Complex at Ashford, London.

4. Loan

No loan amount was outstanding as of 31st March 2025.

5. Fixed Assets during the Year

During this year, there was no fixed asset added.

6. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

		7 th November 2023 – 31 st March 2025
Unrestricted Fund	Tangible Fixed Assets	-
	Current Assets	155,764.86
	Less: Current Liabilities	-
	Total	155,764.86
Restricted Fund		-2,191.25
Total Net Assets		153,573.61

7. Other Expenses

		7 th November 2023 – 31 st March 2025
i)	PCR Funeral	
ii)	Gift/Flowers	1,021.68
iii)	Prayer Groups	-
iv)	Zonal meeting Registration	-
Total		1,021.68

8. Movement in Cash Balance

		7 th November 2023 – 31 st March 2025
Opening Cash Balance		122,231.32
Net surplus		31,342.29
Closing Cash Balance		153,573.61

9. Subscription, Donations etc. - General Fund

		7 th November 2023 – 31 st March 2025
Subscription from Members		37,813.00
Other Donations/Collections		5,642.40
Various Offertories		18,126.08
Gift Aid		13,436.16
Total		75,017.64

10. Income from other Activities – Fundraising Events

	Notes	7 th November 2023 – 31 st March 2025
Kerala Day		2,327.00
Sports Day		-
Harvest		3,167.00
One Day Income		100.00
Total		5,594.00

11. Expenses on Charitable and Evangelical Activities

	Notes	7 th November 2023 – 31 st March 2025
Wayanad Relief fund and Demelza	RF	1,410.00
Housing Aid	RF	-
Special Collection P C R	RF	13,485.00
Covid-19 Aid, Edu-Aid, Med-Aid, etc	DF	2,801.18
Total		17,696.18

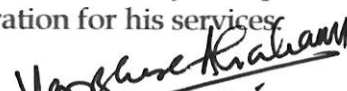
12. Church Running Costs

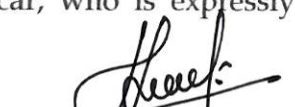
	Notes	7 th November 2023 – 31 st March 2025
Scholarship/Vicar Salary		24,000.00
Diocese/Sabha/COMPE		8,440.00
Fellowship & Special Events		10,292.50
Award Felicitations		214.93
Visiting Speaker		1,650.00
Convention & Family Retreat		1,380.18
Printing, Stationery, Telephone, Website, etc		4,857.29
Church Rent		8,146.20
Church Organisation Expenses	DF	5,837.19
Christmas/New year/Badminton/Kerala day		2,187.92
Regional Events/Conference		1,000.00
Special Occasion Catering/Consumables		1,007.54
Other / Altar / Sound System, etc		1,888.55
Total		70,902.30

13. Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

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.



Rev Jacob P T
Vicar


Varughese Abraham
Trustee Finance


Rony Eapen Mathew
Trustee Accounts


Joe Jacob Varughese
Secretary


Lijo T Jacob
Internal Auditor


Sujana Kuty
Internal Auditor

Audit Report 2024/25

Mar Thoma Church Canterbury – Financial Year 2024/25

Following our audit of the financial statements of Mar Thoma Church Canterbury for the year 2024/25, we report the following observations and recommendations:

1. Note 2 – Designated Funds:

Please include the Bank Interest as a separate line item in Note 2 to improve clarity and transparency. Kindly combine the Cake Sale amount with the Sunday School funds under Note 2 to avoid any confusion, as it relates to Sunday School fundraising activities.

2. Fellowship Meal Expenditure:

The fellowship meal spending is noted to be over the Income. Please review the overage and consider appropriate disclosure or future budget adjustments.

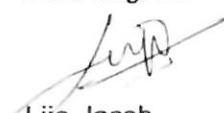
3. Transfers Between Funds:

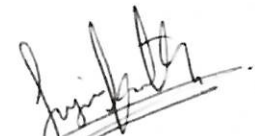
Refer to the interim audit report conducted at 9 months for the reconciliation of amounts listed under "Transfers Between Funds". This will help ensure accuracy and traceability of fund movements.

Overall Audit Outcome:

The audit for the year 2024/25 has been completed satisfactorily. All transactions reviewed were found to match the ledger accounts, and no material discrepancies were identified. The trustees have maintained clear records and supporting documentation throughout the financial year.

Best Regards


Lijo Jacob


Supamone Kutty