

Saint Thomas Church of South India Church Belfast

Northern Ireland · Charity number 107503

Details

Known as	St.Thomas CSI Church Belfast
Status	Received
Registered	2020-07-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	2 Sandymount Green Newtownabbey Belfast BT36 5fb BT36 5FB
Phone	07791954198
Email	csichurchbelfast@yahoo.co.uk
Website	https://csichurchbelfast.co.uk/

Activities

Purposes: (i) To enhance the evangelistic and missionary zeal of its members and encourage them to remain as disciples of the Lord Jesus, creatively and actively engaging in God's mission. (ii) To serve as a common worship platform for the members of the Church of South India, as well as for those churches in communion with it, to witness Christ among all men, women and children. (iii) To share the love of Jesus Christ with the people through proclamation of the good news of Jesus; through community/charity development projects for the marginalised and disadvantaged sections of the people.

What the charity does: The advancement of religion

How the charity works: Religious activities

Who the charity helps: Ethnic minorities, Men, Specific areas of deprivation, Women

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£39,406	£35,402	£0	1

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Abraham Markson		
Mr Sunil Philip		
Mrs Saly Stephenson		
Mrs Smitha Raj Silvilet Sarojam		
Rev Sabi Mathew		

Saint Thomas Church of South India Church Belfast

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107503

Accounts

ST THOMAS CSI CHURCH BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM

Financial statements for the Year ended 31st December 2024

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC107503)

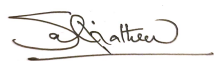
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2024**1st January 2024 until 31st December 2024**

<u>Receipts</u>		Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2024 Totals	2023 Totals
		£	£	£	£
	Notes				
Donations	1	5798	30282	36080	26495
Charitable Activity Receipts	2	3326	0	3326	2010
Totals Income		9124	30282	39406	28505
<u>Payments</u>					
	Notes				
Expense for Raising funds	3	25	0	25	0
Charitable Activities	4	5692	29324	35016	28903
Totals Payments		5717	29324	35042	28903
Net Receipts/(Payments)		£3406	£958	£4364	-£398
<u>Reconciliation of Funds</u>					
Funds brought Forward from 2023		£515	£6533	£7048	£7446
Funds Carried Forward to 2025		£3921	£7491	£11412	£7048

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Funds Reconciliation	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2024 Totals Funds	2023 Totals Funds
	£	£	£	£
Balance at Start of Year	515	6533	7048	7446
Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0
Liabilities	0	0	0	0
Net Movement in Funds	3406	958	4364	-398
Balance at End of Year	3921	7491	11412	7048

Approved by the St Thomas CSI Church committee at a meeting held on 4th March 2025 and signed on behalf by



Chairperson
Rev Sabi Mathew.



Treasurer
Mr Sunil Philip

St Thomas CSI Church Belfast, UK

Notes: -

Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2024

As the total income of St Thomas CSI Church is less than £250,000, the preparation of the accounts will be on receipts and payment basis in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reporting Regulations) (Northern Ireland) 2015.

1--Stewardship: - Voluntary contribution from members made during the calendar year via standing order to bank account.

2--Offertory: - Voluntary contribution from members made during the calendar year during the Holy Communion or Matin Service or Virtual services

1	Donations	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2024 Totals	2023 Totals
		£	£	£	£
a	Stewardship Donations	0	30267	30267	12058
b	Offertory Donations	2467	0	2467	11971
c	Special Offertory Donations	995	0	995	465
d	Womens fellowship donations	0	15	15	95
e	Mens fellowship donations	0	0	0	0
f	Gift Aid Refund	2336	0	2336	1906
	Total	5798	30282	36080	26495

2	Charitable Activity Receipts	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2024 Totals	2023 Totals
		£	£	£	£
a	Fundraising events	3326	0	3326	2010
	Total	3326	0	3326	2010

3	Expense for Raising funds	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2024 Totals	2023 Totals
		£	£	£	£
a	Expense for Raising funds	25	0	25	0
	Total	25	0	25	0

3- Special offertory & Donations:- Birthday / wedding anniversary donations and for special occasions.

4	Charitable Activities	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2024 Totals	2023 Totals
		£	£	£	£
a	Ministry and Support staff expenses	817	28499	29317	25149
b	Congregational Running Expenses	4525	0	4525	2469
c	Gift Payment Expenses	350	0	350	485
d	Donations to Mission & Charity	0	825	825	800
	Total	5692	29324	35016	28903

5		Balance at Start 2024	Receipts	Payments	Balance at End 2024	Balance at End 2023
	Unrestricted Fund	£	£	£	£	£
	General	515	6788	4618	2684	515
	Reserve	0	2336	0	2336	0
	Unrestricted Fund totals	515	9124	4618	5020	515
	Restricted Fund	£	£	£	£	£
	Stewardship	5204	30267	29599	5872	5204
	Mission Charity	1024	0	825	199	1024
	Women Fellowship	306	15	0	321	306
	Men Fellowship	0	0	0	0	0
	Restricted Fund totals	6533	30282	30424	6391	6533
	Overall totals	7048	39406	35042	11412	7048

Saint Thomas Church of South India Church Belfast

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107503

Accounts

ST THOMAS CSI CHURCH BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM

Financial statements for the Year ended 31st December 2023

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC107503)

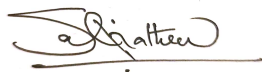
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2023**1st January 2023 until 31st December 2023**

<u>Receipts</u>		Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Totals	2022 Totals
		£	£	£	£
	Notes				
Donations	1	14342	12153	26495	9382
Charitable Activity Receipts	2	1925	85	2010	0
Totals Income		16267	12238	28505	9382
<u>Payments</u>					
	Notes				
Expense for Raising funds	3	0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities	4	18461	10442	28903	6710
Totals Payments		18461	10442	28903	6710
Net Receipts/(Payments)		-2194	1796	-398	2672
<u>Reconciliation of Funds</u>					
Funds brought Forward from 2022		2709	4737	7446	4774
Funds Carried Forward to 2024		515	6533	7048	7446

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Funds Reconciliation	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Totals Funds	2022 Totals Funds
	£	£	£	£
Balance at Start of Year	2709	4737	7446	4774
Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0
Liabilities	0	0	0	0
Net Movement in Funds	-2194	1796	-398	2672
Balance at End of Year	515	6533	7048	7446

Approved by the St Thomas CSI Church committee at a meeting held on 29th February 2024 and signed on behalf by



Chairperson
Rev Sabi Mathew.



Treasurer
Mr Sunil Philip

St Thomas CSI Church Belfast, UK

Notes: -

Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2023

As the total income of St Thomas CSI Church is less than £250,000, the preparation of the accounts will be on receipts and payment basis in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reporting Regulations) (Northern Ireland) 2015.

1--Stewardship: - Voluntary contribution from members made during the calendar year via standing order to bank account. This fund for 2023 is a merged fund of Stewardship and Vicar Support fund (retired in 2022).

2--Offertory: - Voluntary contribution from members made during the calendar year during the Holy Communion or Matin Service or Virtual services

3- Special offertory & Donations:- Birthday / wedding anniversary donations and for special occasions.

1	Donations	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Totals	2022 Totals
		£	£	£	£
a	Stewardship Donations	0	12058	12058	3685
b	Offertory Donations	11971	0	11971	1256
c	Special Offertory Donations	465	0	465	485
d	Womens fellowship donations	0	95	95	185
e	Mens fellowship donations	0	0	0	155
f	Gift Aid Refund	1906	0	1906	1510
	Total	14342	12153	26495	7276

2	Charitable Activity Receipts	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Totals	2022 Totals
		£	£	£	£
a	Fundraising events	1925	85	2010	0
	Total	1925	85	2010	0

3	Expense for Raising funds	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Totals	2022 Totals
		£	£	£	£
a	Expense for Raising funds	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0

4	Charitable Activities	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Totals	2022 Totals
		£	£	£	£
a	Ministry and Support staff expenses	15506	9642	25149	3346
b	Congregational Running Expenses	2469	0	2469	1543
c	Gift Payment Expenses	485	0	485	1666
d	Donations to Mission & Charity	0	800	800	155
	Total	18461	10442	28903	6710

5		Balance at Start 2023	Receipts	Payments	Balance at End 2023	Balance at End 2022
	Unrestricted Fund	£	£	£	£	£
	General	2709	16267	18461	515	2709
	Unrestricted Fund totals	2709	16267	18461	515	2709
	Restricted Fund	£	£	£	£	£
	Stewardship	2787	12058	9642	5204	2787
	Mission Charity	1739	85	800	1024	1739
	Women Fellowship	211	95	0	306	211
	Mens Fellowship	0	0	0	0	0
	Restricted Fund totals	4737	12238	10442	6533	4737
	Overall totals	7446	28505	28903	7048	7446

Saint Thomas Church of South India Church Belfast

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107503

Annual report

ST THOMAS CSI CHURCH BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM

Trustees Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December 2023

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC107503)

St. Thomas CSI Church Belfast, United Kingdom

Charity Name: - St Thomas CSI Church Belfast

Charity Number: - NIC107503

Worship Address:-

Drumbeg Parish Church
The Church of St Patrick's Drumbeg
Upper Malone Road
Belfast, BT17 9LE, United Kingdom

Correspondence Address: -

41 Beattie Park Central,
Dunmurry,
Belfast, BT17 9BE, United Kingdom

Board of Trustees/Office bearers

The Charity Trustees in this report year:-

Rev Sabi Mathew (July 2023-)

Mrs. Sosamma Kurian

Mr. Joby Philip Thomas

Mr. Markson Abraham

Mr. Sunil Philip

Independent Auditor: -

Mrs. Joshy Jose

Address: 74 Olympia Drive Belfast, BT12 6NH, United Kingdom

Church Committee

The Church Committee members of this report year:-

Mrs. Sosamma Kurian - Committee member & Church Warden

Mr. Joby Philip Thomas - Committee member & Secretary

Mr. Markson Abraham - Committee member & Joint Secretary

Mr. Sunil Philip - Committee member & Treasurer

Mr. Vincent P M - Committee member

Mrs. Ashamol Mathew - Committee member & Hospitality coordinator

Mrs. Smitha P Thomas - Committee member

Choir

Choir Secretary – Mr. Joby Philip Thomas

Fire Warden- Mr. Joby Philip Thomas

First aiders

Mrs. Manju P Easow

Mrs Sonia Jeslet Joshy

Hospitality Coordinators

Mr. Sunil Joseph

Mrs. Meenu Sabu Maria

Mrs. Tini Cherian

Mrs. Ashamol Mathew

Organisation Secretaries:-

The Organisation secretaries of this report year:-

Mrs. Manju P Easow - Women's Fellowship Secretary

Mr. Vincent PM - Men's Fellowship secretary

Kurian S Thoonkuzhy - Youth Joint secretary

Sunday school Coordinators:-

Mrs. Prabha Philip

Mrs. Tini Cherian

Miss Rachel Philip (Supporting role)

Authorised bank Signatories: -

Mr. Joby Philip Thomas (Secretary)

Mr. Sunil Philip (Treasurer)

Mrs. Sosamma Kurian (Church Warden)

Bank Details: -

Account Name: - St. Thomas CSI Church Belfast

Sort Code 20-62-27, Account number 50076678

Bank Address: - Barclays Bank, 17 Castle Place, Belfast, United Kingdom

Accountant:-

Westridge Accountants Ltd ,London

Solicitors:- (Not formally appointed but used with Trustee approval)

Paul John & Co Solicitors, London

ST THOMAS CSI CHURCH 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present the annual report and the financial activities of the St Thomas Church of South India (CSI) Church for the year ending 31st December 2023.

Governance and Structure:-

St Thomas CSI Church is governed by its constitution. The constitution was reviewed in 2016 and the revised document was adopted at the AGM on 8th February 2020. St Thomas CSI Church, Belfast is a recognised and licensed Congregation of the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese, Kerala, India, in mission partnership with the Drumbeg Parish Church and under the diocese of Down & Dromore, Church of Ireland. Members of the St Thomas CSI Church Belfast and predominantly from the Madhya Kerala diocese of CSI Church in India and hence follows the liturgy, worship orders of the diocese and the guidance issued by the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese but jurisdictionally under the Church of Ireland Drumbeg Parish Church in the Diocese of Down & Dromore within the context of the wider Anglican Communion.

St Thomas CSI Church is a registered Charity in the United Kingdom to the Charity commission of Northern Ireland (Registration number-107503) and recognised by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Trustees (office bearers) of the St Thomas CSI Church performs the recruitment of the Vicar (Minister) for the congregation, thereby the Bishop of Madhya Kerala diocese deputes the vicar to the congregation and put forward to the Bishop of Down & Dromore diocese Belfast. Upon the completion of the diocesan requirements and the satisfactory Access NI checks, Bishop of Down & Dromore diocese will appoint the vicar by issuing the permission to officiate licenses to carry out the ministerial duties for St Thomas CSI Church within the diocese of Down and Dromore. Northern Ireland and United Kingdom laws are applicable to the Congregation in accordance with the above.

Management of the congregation is administered by the trustees jointly with the Church committee chaired by the appointed Vicar. Trustees of the congregation will be Vicar, Church Warden, Secretary, treasurer and a chosen member from the Church committee whereas Church committee will have other positions for the smooth running of the congregation. The trustees & committee are elected every 2 years in the Annual general body meeting usually held on every March annually where all on full membership or associate membership are eligible to vote. The Trustees and committee are responsible for the day to day management and the maintenance of Finances.

Purpose:-

The purposes of this Church are:

- (i) To enhance the evangelistic and missionary zeal of its members and encourage them to remain as disciples of the Lord Jesus, creatively and actively engaging in God's mission.
- (ii) To serve as a common worship platform for the members of the Church of South India, as well as for those churches in communion with it, to witness Christ among all men, women and children.
- (iii) To share the love of Jesus Christ with the people through proclamation of the good news of Jesus; through community/charity development projects for the marginalised and disadvantaged sections of the people.

Activities:-

- 1) St Thomas CSI church provides members a safe space to build and practise their faith by engaging in evangelical and missionary church activities
- 2) Members of the St Thomas CSI Church are meeting for the worship activities.
- 3) St Thomas CSI Church also hold other religious activities during every month. Through monthly prayer meetings, we support our members, our own churches and the community.
- 4) St Thomas CSI Church organise and host meetings and events that promote our charitable purposes.

2023 Reflection:-

We are in the 15th year of existence as CSI Church in Belfast, United Kingdom. By looking back to those years, we recognise how faithful God has been to our congregation. We are amazed at what God has done in and through us these past 15 years, where He has led us, and how He has provided for us through various ways. We strongly believe this was never our plan, but God indeed had a plan for us! It reminds us of **Proverbs 19:21** where it says, ***"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."*** We have to thank our God for all who served us and keeping as a Church to worship Him in the CSI order of service in Belfast, United Kingdom.

The highlight of this term was the successful registration of St Thomas CSI Church as an employer with HMRC, a bigger step in faith to employ a full time Vicar for the congregation. Appropriate HR systems were implemented, successful registration for the payroll services, appointment of an accountant on behalf of St Thomas CSI Church Belfast and to process the accounting matters including payroll processing are the key initiative happened in 2023 term. Following the successful registration of employer, a recruitment initiative was held to recruit the 1st employee of St Thomas CSI Church Belfast, a full time Vicar to meet the ministerial and pastoral needs of St Thomas CSI Congregation. At the end of the recruitment process and in accordance with the certificate of Sponsorship issued on 26th April 2023 by UK Visa & Immigration, Rev Sabi Mathew was given an offer letter on 8th June 2023 for the 1st term effective from 15th June 2023 to 14th June 2026, and mutually agreed as a start date on 20th July 2023.

Rev Sabi Mathew hails from Pathanamthitta district of Kerala state, India, an ordained Church of South India (CSI) minister within the Madhya Kerala Diocese, Kerala India. Rev Sabi Mathew is married to Mrs Sharon Merin Varghese and they have got a daughter, Miss Stephania Rachel Sabi.

It was an iconic moment for the 15 year history of the congregation to have a full time minister and to all the CSI members in the UK. Congregation unanimously welcomed Rev Sabi Mathew & family on 19th July 2023 at the George Best City airport Belfast.

Access NI Checks were carried out successfully and the permission to officiate was issued by Rt. Rev. David McClay, Bishop of Down & Dromore diocese on 9th October 2023.

On behalf of the trustees, I would like to express our thanks to

- a) Entire trustees and the Church Committee for their faithful service during 2022-2024.

- b) We acknowledge the services of our Vicar Rev Sabi Mathew, his wife Mrs Sharon Merin Varghese and all the support to the congregation. We express our sincere gratitude to Rev Sabi Mathew for leading us in Holy Communion services and other church programs and pray to God Almighty for his blessed ministry.
- c) We also thank Rev Shaiju Kumar for the support during the vicar's vacancy period for leading the congregation for the Good Friday and Easter Holy communion service.
- d) Rev Viji Varghese Eapen and Mrs. Susan George for their visit to our congregation in October 2023.
- e) Rev Willie Nixon, Rector of Drumbeg Parish Church for the support to the congregation.
- f) Drumbeg Church committee of the Drumbeg parish church for allowing us to use the church premises.
- g) We are grateful to the Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian for all the support and guidance for the congregation during the vacancy period and all interim remote support.
- h) We are also extremely grateful to the Bishop Rt. Rev. David McClay, Down & Dromore diocese and its diocesan officials for the support and guidance for the congregation.
- i) We are also thankful to Mr. Merlin Prasad Alfred, Paul John & Co Solicitors for all the legal guidance for our congregation.
- j) We are also thankful to Mr. Jude Perera of Westridge Accounting firm for all the accounting works for our congregation.
- k) A sincere thanks to Sub committee members Mr. Pradeep Chacko George and Mrs. Susan Mathew along with the trustees of St Thomas CSI Church Belfast for all the works done for the employer registration and the recruitment process.
- l) A sincere thanks to all the members of Sub Committee who helped with the employer registration process.

A special mention of our Church Warden Mrs. Sosamma Kurian for her leading role with advice, chairing the meeting during vacancy and the direction for the church committee and within the congregational activities. We are also extremely grateful to our Treasurer Mr Sunil Philip for his commitment and hard work for the Church even during his busy schedule.

Worship Schedule:-

The congregation normally meet for worship either on Saturday or Sunday and during the mid-week as fellowship gatherings which provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer. During the calendar year, we had several worship services (Holy Communion Services & Matins), fellowship gatherings in person, Outreach activities and online zoom meetings weekly. Communion Services were held every weekends giving opportunity for every CSI members in UK to attend the CSI order of service either as an in-person service or Zoom online platform. Outreach activities of the congregation is an opportunity to reach out to any CSI members within the UK those you can't travel long distance and to address the pastoral needs of the CSI members in the UK.

Frequency	Activity
1st Saturday of the month	Chain Prayer
1 st week of the Month	Women's Fellowship
1 st week of the Month	Fellowship Prayer Meeting
All Weekends (Saturday or Sunday)	Holy Communion Service
3 rd week of the Month	Sunday school
Outreach Fellowship	Varies depends on the Individual groups (Children, Youth, Women or Men)

Cottage Prayer:-

The cottage meetings are voluntary in the sense that the families have opened their homes for the cottage meeting and therefore the church has arranged the meetings in their homes. There are many families who love to have a cottage meeting at their home, but due to lack of space to accommodate and also for those can't travel, the meetings are also scheduled online. The environment of a home or online, combined with hearing God's word with fellow believers is a great strengthening moment in our Christian life. We had 7 cottage prayer during this report year. Thanks to all for your support.

Harvest Service:-

Harvest Service has evolved to be an event with great enthusiasm. Harvest service and the fund raising event was organised on Saturday 21st October 2023. We managed to conduct fund raising event after church with good participation from our members. Thanks to all organised and contributed for this event well and helped to raise significant funds during a tough year for the congregation. Thanks to Rev Viji Varghese Eapen and Mrs. Susan George who joined as guest for the Harvest Service.

Retreat:-

One day Family retreat at St.Thomas CSI Church Belfast,UK on Saturday 30th September 2023. Main speaker for the retreat was Ms. Jesmine George (Family Counsellor), supported by Rev Sabi Mathew and Mrs. Sharon Merin Varghese. A day started with the traditional Indian breakfast, all age singing session, a Youth and adult session on the "Empowerment of the Domestic Church" & group discussion while a parallel session for the kids, a yummy Indian lunch, a platform for the open forum discussion, and to end the day with the dedication and prayer. Supported by many hands to have this retreat an event of a great gathering.

Carol Rounds:-

Christmas Carol rounds were held on 9th and 16th of December 2023. It was a blessed fellowship and in-person carol rounds. As part of the Christmas celebrations, this house-to-house carol rounds were arranged and carollers visited homes of our members. It was an opportunity to visit the members home and share the Christmas greetings.

Carol Service: -

Our 2023 Carol Service was on 16th December. Rev Sabi Mathew led the service at Drumbeg Church. Thanks to all the congregation members for their wider participation in the carol service.

Chain Prayer:-

During this prayer event, readings and prayer points are forwarded to the members as we continue to spend time in praying for others and for our church needs. We had 4 chain prayers during the year 2023. A sincere thanks to Mrs Tini Cherian and Ms. Kesiya Justin for coordinating the prayer chain events.

Sunday school:-

Sunday school report prepared by Mrs. Prabha Philip, Sunday school coordinator.

All children from Primary1 to year 12 are welcomed to each Sunday school class which will be held on third Saturday at 10:30am before the Holy Communion Service. We used to have the 'Go Teach' Bible study materials for children; and we do have the Bible reading and reading stories as a group and use the "Printables" as the materials based on the Bible stories for different activities like coloring and crafts for children. During the month of November 2023, Holy Communion Service was led by the Sunday school and children's participation in the service was very much appreciated. The Sunday school also set out an entertainment afternoon for the congregation on that same day. In accordance with the Drumbeg Parish Church Child Protection Policy, both of our Sunday school teachers Mrs. Tini Cherian and Mrs. Prabha Philip have taken the required training and Access NI check. It is great to have Miss Rachel Philip as a teacher supporting in the Sunday school. We as a group try to create the Sunday school time more fun and enjoyable for children so certainly needed encouragement from the congregation to make this possible and going forward.

A sincere thanks for all the Sunday school teachers and helpers.

Women's Fellowship:-

Women Fellowship report prepared by Mrs. Manju Easow, Secretary and Joint Secretary Mrs Sonia Jeslet Joshy. "Come to my children, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of the lord" Psalm 34:11 Praise and thanks to God almighty for another blessed year in the life of the Women's fellowship of St Thomas CSI Church Belfast. Women fellowship continued to meet regularly on the 3rd Saturday of every month under the leadership of Rev.Sabi Mathew and Mrs.Sharon M Varghese, there after it was changed to 1st Tuesday of every month. Women's fellowship members took a lead roll during the service and Mrs Sosamma Kurian gave the message.

A sincere thanks to Mrs. Manju P Easow & Mrs. Sonia Jeslet for coordinating the fellowship events.

Youth Movement:-

Youth movement report prepared by Mr. Kurian Saji Thoonkuzhy, Joint Secretary, Youth movement.

The first youth meeting of the year was held on May 2023, with our then newly appointed Rev. Sabi Mathew. Achan had meeting with the Christian Youth Movement committee members, Kurian S.T the Joint Secretary, Mrs.Meenu Markson the youth co-ordinator, Mr.Markson Abraham the Magazine editor and other youth members. The church youth lead the prayer of the October 2023 month and also the harvest Sunday of the year 2023. I thank God for his presence in all our activities throughout this year. We are few in numbers but the Lord made us come this far. Thank you Jesus

A sincere thanks to Mr Kurian Saji Thoonkuzhy for coordinating the Youth movement events.

Choir:-

We as a congregation values our precious choral tradition which is at the heart of our CSI worship which offers a musical uplift to the Church services and strongly emphasis that the music was an integral part of the worship and not an added extra. In January 2023, few members volunteered to form a new dedicated Church choir and led all the Holy communion Services and the Carol Service. We are reminding the congregation of the importance we place on singing to lift our prayers to God, and look ahead to enable more on the singing of choir to lift the congregation and to fill our church with His praise. Thanks to Mr Joby Thomas and Mr Reuben Mathew Manoj on keyboard for the guidances and help during this year. Seeking your prayers for this newly formed church Choir.

Fundraising appeals

During this report year we had four fundraising appeal in accordance with the trustee approval and with the applicable regulations to top our mission charity account. The time period for this appeal was given below. Thanks to all of your generous contributions that helped to meet few charitable causes in align with our mission.

➤ Fundraising /collection events for 2023

- ☐ Fundraising event - restricted fundraising to top up the Mission Fund - September 2023- Educational Sunday collection (ED)
- ☐ Fundraising event - Harvest Festival fundraising (unrestricted)-October 2023 (HD)
- ☐ Fundraising event - restricted fundraising to top up the Mission Fund - December 2023- Christmas Mission Donations (CMD)
- ☐ Fundraising event - Carol rounds fund collection (unrestricted) (CR)

➤ Chosen charities for the Mission work in 2023

- ☐ Bible Society NI
- ☐ Orissa Mission, India
- ☐ UP Mission, India

Birthday and Wedding Anniversary Reminders:-

As a congregation we continued to send greetings on the birthday and wedding anniversaries using the Whatsapp platform for those who all are signed and agreed upon in align with the GDPR regulations.

A sincere thanks to Mrs. Smitha P Thomas for sending the greetings.

New Members:-

We would like to welcome our members to the congregation.

- 1: Mr. Alex.B.Wilson, Mrs. Smitha Raj.S, Mr. Alfie.S.Alex, Mr. Albie. S. Alex
- 2: Mr. Gigi Philip Varghese, Mrs. Subhy Elsa Thomas, Miss.Tanya Mariam Philip and Miss Olivia Susan Philip
- 3: Mr. Alexdas Sathyadas , Mrs.Jancy Ennasmuthu, Mrs. Angelin Jancy Alex and Mrs. Annlin Jancy Alex
- 4: Mr. Reuben Mathew Manoj

Remembrance:-

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

On Friday 27th October 2023, we lost our good and faithful friend Hugh Crookshanks. We cannot go further in this reporting year without mentioning all the committed support by Late Mr. Hugh Crookshanks to St Thomas CSI Congregation. It was a great loss for us, but we continue to cherish. We give thanks to God Almighty for Hugh's life, especially the services and contributions to St Thomas CSI Church Belfast and the love and fellowship shared amongst us.

Hospitality:-

As a congregation we continued to meet after the service and spend time together and enjoyed the fellowship. Thanks to all the congregation members for their willingness to sponsor the food or to prepare the food. A sincere thanks to all the Hospitality Coordinators for coordinating the events.

Committee Meetings:-

The Committee met 7 times during the year to discuss and deliberate on the day-to-day running of the Parish, as well as to execute the decisions of the General Body. The primary purpose of a Church Committee Meeting was to discuss important matters related to the congregation functions. It is an opportunity to plan events, allocate funds, make critical decisions, and discuss any issues or concerns related to the congregation.

Financial Commitment & Review:-

The Congregation's main source of income is members' contribution through the bank transfers or at the offering plates during the service. I would like to report all that we continue to collect the voluntary donation throughout the year 2023. The donations will be paid based on a unique identification number allowing all the members the option to keep anonymous in their giving. I would like to encourage all the Church members to be part of this in support of our financial requirements to continue worship here in Belfast in our own language.

I would like to thank all the congregation members for their contribution and other mission charity appeals during this report year. Our treasurer will provide more insight through his report, though as it is very much encouraging to see the amount collected during this report year.

Annual General body meeting

Annual general body of the congregation for year 2022 took place on 11th March 2023 after Holy Communion service. Report and accounts for the year 2022 were presented and adopted by the congregation.

Websites & Social Media:-

Our Church gets involved in the websites and social media sites during this digital age. We have a fully paid functional website and the events are published on the website which is widely used by many. Facebook is a very useful way to get information out quickly and to keep people in touch. Remember -anyone can post on Facebook so use it to promote our church and its events. Our Youth fellowship has an Instagram account to promote its events. At the minute WhatsApp is the most effective communication platform used among the Church members with regular updates on the worship services, fellowship prayer meetings, birthdays and anniversaries.

Data Protection:-

In order to align with the UK General data protection regulation (GDPR) requirements and to comply with the Drumbeg Parish Church requirements we are bound by law to secure our personal data of our members. Personal data relates to a living individual who can be identified from the data. Identification can be by the information alone or in conjunction with any other information in the data controller's possession or likely to come into such possession. The processing of personal data is governed by the GDPR. Hence, we have continued to use the GDPR personal information guidelines which will be applicable to all members of the St Thomas CSI Church. This is a mandatory requirement; hence all members must sign to continue use their personal information within our Church and this is specifically for the birthdays and wedding anniversaries. Secretary will act as the data controller and sole custodian of the church data.

Responsibilities:-

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and statements of the congregation in accordance with the applicable law and the generally accepted accounting practice within United Kingdom. The trustees are also responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time in its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. As the congregation's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

We are looking forward to:

- Our prayer is that every member would be an effective witness enabled by the Holy Spirit to share and proclaim their faith within our wider community
- That there would be a growing hunger to continue the discipleship
- Our youths and children will continue to grow in their faith.
- May the year ahead bring more activities to attract the younger generation.
- That God would be glorified in the congregational life to continue work as a servant act according to our masters will.

We look forward in faith to the year ahead in 2024 and pray that God will continue to bless us, and all that we do would be only for his glory.

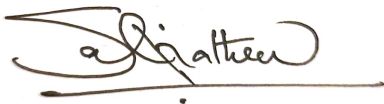
Psalm 28:7 tells us that the Lord is our strength and shield and that our hearts must trust in him. Let us move into the next year knowing God loves us and wants the best for us. We have been so encouraged to see God strengthen and protect us over and over again and lovingly move us forward.

Date: - 29th February 2024

Prepared by Secretary: - Joby Philip Thomas

Approved by the St Thomas CSI Church committee at a meeting held on 29th February 2024 and signed on behalf by

Chairperson

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sabi Mathew', written over a horizontal line.

Rev Sabi Mathew

Secretary

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joby Thomas', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Joby Philip Thomas

Saint Thomas Church of South India Church Belfast

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107503

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of St Thomas CSI Church Belfast

I report on the accounts of the St Thomas CSI Church Belfast for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Independent Examiner:- Mr Joshy Jose



Address: 74 Olympia Drive, Belfast, BT12 6NH

Dated: 16th February 2024

Saint Thomas Church of South India Church Belfast

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107503

Accounts

ST THOMAS CSI CHURCH BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM

Financial statements for the Year ended 31st December 2022

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC107503)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2022**1st January 2022 until 31st December 2022**

<u>Receipts</u>		Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Totals	2021 Totals
		£	£	£	£
	Notes				
Donations	1	4516	4866	9382	4762
Charitable Activity Receipts	2	0	0	0	3142
Totals Income		4516	4866	9382	7904
<u>Payments</u>					
	Notes				
Expense for Raising funds	3	0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities	4	4535	2175	6710	5335
Totals Payments		4535	2175	6710	5335
Net Receipts/(Payments)		-19	2691	2672	2569
<u>Reconciliation of Funds</u>					
Funds brought Forward from 2021		2728	2046	4774	2205
Funds Carried Forward to 2023		2709	4737	7446	4774

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Funds Reconciliation	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Totals Funds	2021 Totals Funds
	£	£	£	£
Balance at Start of Year	2728	2046	4774	2205
Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0
Liabilities	0	0	0	0
Net Movement in Funds	-19	2691	2672	2569
Balance at End of Year	2709	4737	7446	4774

Approved by the St Thomas CSI Church committee at a meeting held on 4th March 2023 and signed on behalf by

Skurian

Chairperson & Church Warden
Mrs Sosamma Kurian

Sunil Philip

Treasurer
Mr Sunil Philip

St Thomas CSI Church Belfast, UK

Notes: -

1--Stewardship: - Voluntary contribution from members made during the calendar year via standing order to bank account.

2--Offertory: - Voluntary contribution from members made during the calendar year during the Holy Communion or Matin Service or Virtual services

3- Special offertory & Donations:- Birthday / wedding anniversary donations and for special occasions.

1	Donations	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Totals	2021 Totals
		£	£	£	£
a	Stewardship Donations	0	3685	3685	1805
b	Offertory	1256	0	1256	900
c	Special Offertory	485	0	485	595
d	Vicar Support Fund Donations	0	750	750	740
e	Harvest Festival donations	955	0	955	997
f	Womens fellowship donations	0	185	185	445
g	Mens fellowship donations	0	155	155	0
h	Carol rounds donations	170	0	170	0
i	Gift Aid Refund	1510	0	1510	722
j	Other Income	140	91	231	0
	Total	4516	4866	9382	6204

2	Charitable Activity Receipts	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Totals	2021 Totals
		£	£	£	£
a	Mission Fundraising events	0	0	0	1720
	Total	0	0	0	1720

3	Expense for Raising funds	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Totals	2021 Totals
		£	£	£	£
a	Expense for Raising funds	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0

4	Charitable Activities	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Totals	2021 Totals
		£	£	£	£
a	Ministry and Support staff expenses	1901	1445	3346	1758
b	Congregational Running Expenses	1543	0	1543	666
c	Gift Payment Expenses	1091	575	1666	1091
d	Donations to Mission & Charity	0	155	155	1820
	Total	4535	2175	6710	5335

5		Balance at Start 2022	Receipts	Payments	Balance at End 2022	Balance at End 2021
	Unrestricted Fund	£	£	£	£	£
	General	2728	4516	4535	2709	2728
	Restricted Fund	£	£	£	£	£
	Stewardship	0	3685	1233	2452	0
	Mission Charity	1739	0	0	1739	1739
	Women Fellowship	35	276	100	211	35
	Mens Fellowship	0	155	155	0	0
	Vicar Support	272	750	687	335	272
	Totals	4774	9382	6710	7446	2205

Saint Thomas Church of South India Church Belfast

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107503

Annual report

ST THOMAS CSI CHURCH BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM

Trustees Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December 2022

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC107503)

St. Thomas CSI Church Belfast, United Kingdom

Charity Name: - St Thomas CSI Church Belfast

Charity Number: - NIC107503

Worship Address:-

Drumbeg Parish Church Hall,
The Church of St Patrick's Drumbeg
Upper malone Road
Belfast, BT17 9LE, United Kingdom

Correspondence Address: -

41 Beattie Park Central,
Dunmurry,
Belfast, BT17 9BE, United Kingdom

Board of Trustees/Office bearers

The Charity Trustees in this report year:-

Rev Viji Varghese Eapen (Retired May 22) Trustee position Vacant
Mrs. Sosamma Kurian
Mr. Joby Philip Thomas
Mr. Markson Abraham
Mr. Sunil Philip

Independent Auditor: -

Mrs. Joshy Jose

Address: 74 Olympia Drive Belfast, BT12 6NH, United Kingdom

Church Committee

The Church Committee members of this report year:-

Mrs. Sosamma Kurian	- Committee member & Church Warden
Mr. Joby Philip Thomas	- Committee member & Secretary
Mr. Markson Abraham	- Committee member & Joint Secretary
Mr. Sunil Philip	- Committee member & Treasurer
Mr. Vincent P M	- Committee member
Mrs. Ashamol Mathew	- Committee member & Hospitality coordinator
Ms. Kesiya Justin	- Committee member & Prayer coordinator
Mrs. Smitha P Thomas	- Committee member

Choir

Choir Master - Mr. Joshy Jose

Choir Secretary - Mr. Joby Philip Thomas

Fire Warden- Mr. Joby Philip Thomas

First aiders

Mrs. Manju P Easow

Mrs Sonia Jeslet Joshy

Hospitality Coordinators

Mr. Sunil Joseph

Mrs. Meenu Sabu Maria

Mrs. Tini Cherian

Mrs. Ashamol Mathew

Organization Secretaries:-

The Organization secretaries of this report year:-

Mrs. Manju P Easow - Women's Fellowship Secretary

Mr. Vincent PM - Men's Fellowship secretary

Miss. Kesiya Justin - Youth secretary

Sunday school Coordinators:-

Mrs. Prabha Philip

Mrs. Tini Cherian

Miss Rachel Philip (Supporting role)

Authorised bank Signatories: -

Mr. Joby Philip Thomas (Secretary)

Mr. Sunil Philip (Treasurer)

Mrs. Sosamma Kurian (Church Warden)

Bank Details: -

Account Name: - St. Thomas CSI Church Belfast

Sort Code 20-62-27, Account number 50076678

Bank Address: - Barclays Bank, 17 Castle Place, Belfast, United Kingdom

ST THOMAS CSI CHURCH 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present the annual report and the financial activities of the St Thomas CSI Church for the year ending 31st December 2022.

Governance and Structure:-

St Thomas CSI Church is governed by its constitution. The constitution was reviewed in 2016 and the revised document was adopted at the AGM on 8th February 2020. St Thomas CSI Church, Belfast is a recognised and licensed Congregation of the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese, Kerala, India, in mission partnership with the Drumbeg Parish Church and under the diocese of Down & Dromore, Church of Ireland. Members of the St Thomas CSI Church Belfast and predominantly from the Madhya Kerala diocese of CSI Church in India and hence follows the liturgy, worship orders of the diocese and the guidance issued by the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese but jurisdictionally under the Church of Ireland Drumbeg Parish Church in the Diocese of Down & Dromore within the context of the wider Anglican Communion. Madhya Kerala diocese appoints the vicar for the congregation but the licensing and permission to officiate are officiated by the Drumbeg Parish Church and Down and Dromore diocese. Northern Ireland and United Kingdom laws are applicable to the Congregation in accordance with the above.

At the congregation level it is managed by the trustees (office bearers) and by the Church committee chaired by the Vicar of the congregation appointed by the Madhya Kerala and Down & Dromore diocese. Trustees of the congregation will be Vicar, Church Warden, Secretary, treasurer and a chosen member from the Church committee whereas committee will have other positions for the smooth running of the congregation. The trustees & committee are elected every 2 years in the Annual general body meeting usually held on every March annually where all on full membership or associate membership are eligible to vote. The Trustees and committee are responsible for the day to day management and the maintenance of Finances.

Purpose:-

The purposes of this Church are:

- (i) To enhance the evangelistic and missionary zeal of its members and encourage them to remain as disciples of the Lord Jesus, creatively and actively engaging in God's mission.
- (ii) To serve as a common worship platform for the members of the Church of South India, as well as for those churches in communion with it, to witness

Christ among all men, women and children.

(iii) To share the love of Jesus Christ with the people through proclamation of the good news of Jesus; through community/charity development projects for the marginalised and disadvantaged sections of the people.

Activities:-

- 1) St Thomas CSI church provides members a safe space to build and practise their faith by engaging in evangelical and missionary church activities
- 2) Members of the St Thomas CSI Church are meeting for the worship activities.
- 3) St Thomas CSI Church also hold other religious activities during every month. Through monthly prayer meetings, we support our members, our own churches and the community.
- 4) St Thomas CSI Church organise and host meetings and events that promote our charitable purposes.

2022 Reflection:-

We are in the 14th year of existence as CSI Church in Belfast, United Kingdom. By looking back to those years, we have to thank our God for keeping as a Church to worship him in the CSI order of service.

Episcopal visit for Confirmation and Easter Celebration

The highlight of this term was the Episcopal visit of Rt. Rev. Dr Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian, Bishop of the Madhya Kerala Diocese on 16th April 2022. Bishop led the confirmation service along Rt Revd David Alexander McClay, Rev Viji Varghese Eapen and Rev Willie Nixon. In the service held on April 16, Bishop of Madhya Kerala diocese Rt. Rev. Dr. Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian launched our manuscript magazine "*RHYTHM*". It was indeed a great blessing to the congregation that bishop of Madhya Kerala diocese visit St Thomas Church Belfast.

On behalf of the church committee, I would like to express our thanks to

- a) Rt. Rev. Dr Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian and Rt Revd David Alexander McClay for the Episcopal visit to Belfast Congregation .
- b) Rev Viji Varghese Eapen, Vicar of St Thomas CSI Church Belfast for leading congregation until May 2022. Our Sincere thanks to Mrs. Susan George for all the support to the congregation.
- c) Rev Sabi Mathew for the remote support provided as the interim acting Presbyter in charge for the congregation, during the vicar's vacancy period as appointed by the Bishop of Madhya Kerala diocese. We appreciate the guidance given for the worship services and cottage prayers.
- d) Rev Shaiju Kumar for the support during the vicar's vacancy period for leading the congregation with the Holy communion service

- e) Rev Byju Eapen for the remote support for the congregation during the vacancy period.
- f) Rev Dr Jacob Thomas for the support during the year 2022 by leading the congregation with the Holy Communion Services. Our Sincere thanks to Mrs. Emily Jacob for all the support to the congregation.
- g) Rev Willie Nixon, Rector of Drumbeg Parish Church for the support to the congregation.
- h) Church committee of the Drumbeg parish church for allowing us to use the church premises.
- i) Mr. Hugh Crookshanks for continuously supporting us for our worship services.
- j) We are also extremely grateful to the Down & Dromore diocese and its officials for the support and guidance for the congregation.

A special mention of our Church Warden Mrs. Sosamma Kurian for her leading role with advice, Chairing the meeting during vacancy and the direction for the church committee and within the congregational activities. We are also extremely grateful to our Treasurer Mr Sunil Philip for his commitment and hardwork for the Church even during his busy schedule.

Worship Schedule:-

During the calendar year congregation met for the worship services and fellowship gatherings in person and through the zoom virtual platform weekly. The following were the activities of the St Thomas CSI Church for the report year.

Frequency	Activity
1st week of the Month	Chain Prayer at their homes
2nd week of the Month	Holy Communion Service /Zoom online Service
2nd week of the Month	Sunday school
3rd week of the Month	Women's Fellowship
4th week of the Month	Fellowship Prayer Meeting
1 st and 3rd Thursday of the Month	Men's Fellowship

Here are the individual reports of each of the worship and fellowship gatherings.

Holy Communion Services:-

We had 10 Holy communion Services during the report year.

- 29th January 2022 –led by Rev Jacob Thomas.

- 12th February led by Rev Viji Varghese Eapen
- 26th February led by Rev Viji Varghese Eapen- Men's Fellowship Day
- 12th March led by Rev Viji Varghese Eapen- Women's Fellowship Day. Thanks to Kesia Justin for the sermon.
- 16th April Confirmation Service led by Bishop Rt Rev Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian and Bishop Rt Rev James McClay
- 30th April led by Rev Viji Varghese Eapen.
- 14th May led by Rev Viji Varghese Eapen
- 09th July led by Rev Shaiju Kumar - Theological Education Sunday.
- 8th October - led by Rev Shaiju Kumar - Harvest Thanksgiving service.
- 17th December led by Rev Shaiju Kumar - Carol Service.

Matin Service: -

We had 8 Matin services during this report year.

- 8 January 2022
- 26th March 2022
- 28 May 2022
- 11 June 2022
- 25 June 2022
- 13 August 2022
- 17 September 2022
- 12 November 2022

Ash Wednesday Service

We have hosted a special ash Wednesday service on 2nd March 2022 via Zoom led by Rev Viji Varghese Eapen. Thank you for all the other congregations who joined for the service.

Baptism

Baptism of Sarah Sunson daughter of Sunson Stephenson and Mahima Mariam Johnson on 29th January 2022 led by Rev Jacob Thomas and Rev Willie Nixon.

Confirmation

Confirmation refers to the process of strengthening or deepening our relationship with God. Confirmation of Master Abel Sunil and Master Alan Kalarikal Bijo on 16th April 2022 was led by Bishop Rt Rev Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian and Bishop Rt Rev James McClay. Rev Willie Nixon, Drumbeg Church, and Rev Viji Varghese Eapen also attended the service. Members of the Dublin CSI congregation and Drumbeg Parish Church also attended the service.

Farewell:

Rev Viji Varghese Eapen and Mrs Susan George was given farewell by the church on 14th May 2022 who guided us over the last three years, particularly during the pandemic. Achen taught us to feel encouraged in our faith and to have the courage to encourage others. Achen has been a thoughtful friend and a source of profound strength to the congregation. We wish all the very best for his studies and the ministry.

Cottage Prayers: -

We used to gather on every 4th Saturday as Cottage prayer meetings during the report year.

We had 3 cottage prayer during this report year.

- 8th October
- 22nd October
- 26th November

Carol Rounds

It was a delight to have our carol rounds on 10th December 2022 after few years break.

Carol Service: -

- Our 2022 Carol Service was on 17th December 2022. Rev Shaiju Kumar led the service at Drumbeg Parish hall. Thanks to all the congregation members for their wider participation in the carol service.

Chain Prayer

As a church we continue to meet regularly from their homes on the 1st Saturday of every month as Chain Prayer and those attending find encouragement by meditating

through God's word as they spend time alone or with the family. During this prayer event, readings and prayer points are forwarded to the members as we continue to spend time in praying for others and for our church needs.

We had 10 chain prayers during the year 2022.

- 5th February 2022
- 5th March 2022
- 2nd April 2022
- 6th May 2022
- 2nd July 2022
- 6th August 2022
- 3rd September 2022
- 1st October 2022
- 5th November 2022
- 3rd December 2022

A sincere thanks to Mrs Tini Cherian and Ms. Kesiya Justin for coordinating the prayer chain events.

Sunday School

Sunday school report prepared by Mrs. Prabha Philip, Sunday School coordinator.

All children from Primary1 to year 12 are invited to each Sunday School class which is happening on every second Saturday of the month at 10:40am before the Holy Communion Service. We used to follow the 'Go Teach' Bible study materials for children. At the start of the new Sunday School year since September 2022, We are doing Bible reading and reading Bible stories as a group and using the Printables that are materials based on the stories for different activities like colouring and crafts for children. We had given children a Christmas gift during the year of 2022. It is great to have Miss Rachel Philip as a teacher supporting in the Sunday School. In accordance with the Drumbeg Parish Church Child Protection Policy, both of our Sunday School teachers Mrs. Tini Cherian and Mrs. Prabha Philip are undergone the necessary training and Access NI checks. We ask God to bless the work ahead.

A sincere thanks for all the Sunday school teachers and helpers.

Women's Fellowship

Women Fellowship report prepared by Mrs. Manju Easow, Secretary and Joint Secretary Mrs Sonia Jeslet Joshy.

"Come to my children, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of the lord" Psalm 34:11

Praise and thanks to God almighty for another blessed year in the life of the Women's fellowship of St Thomas CSI Church Belfast. Women fellowship continued to meet regularly on the 3rd Saturday of every month under the leadership of Mrs. Susan George.

Women fellowship met 10 times during the calendar year, members found these meeting encouraging and actively participated. Each of these meetings consists of songs, readings, Bible discussions, intercessory prayers and last but the least virtual interactions. Discussions on this year's meeting was based on women's characters within the Bible. All the meetings were conducted through the online zoom platform. A Women fellowship fund was started and contributed to the charitable causes. Much grateful to the support of church committee and congregation. May the Almighty God strengthens the fellowship to unite members in the prayer, witnessing and in the service of our lord and savior Jesus Christ.

A sincere thanks to Mrs. Manju P Easow & Mrs. Sonia Jeslet for coordinating the fellowship events.

"Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship report compiled by fellowship Secretary Mr. Vincent PM & Joint Secretary Mr. Bijo George .

Psalms 1:1-6 - Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

"Men need encouragement, Godly wisdom, and hope today more than ever. While the world tends to tell men to hide their emotions and act tough, God has a special calling for men to be strong, courageous leaders, and His Scripture and fellowship with other men can provide the inspiration need to take daily steps towards His calling, a Godly men's can lead family and a community, those men can build His Church with ease".

Men's fellowship was gathering 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month on the zoom virtual platform for a short time of friendship. It was indeed a great platform for the Men's to come together and to have a friendship chat, get to know each other, singing, pray, support each other by physical and emotional and help to plan and act for the wellbeing of every one and families.. Many of the newer members used this fellowship to get to know the life in Belfast while they settled their life here at the start and it also helped the older members to know the newer members.

Praying that this fellowship will grow each day and help the men to grow in God's understanding.

Special welcome to new members Sathya Raj, Amith, Ranju.

A sincere thanks to Mr Vincent PM & Mr. Bijo for coordinating the fellowship events.

Youth Movement.

Youth movement report prepared by Miss. Kesiya Justin, Secretary, Youth movement. The first youth meeting of the year was held on March 18, 2022. In the meeting conducted through Zoom, Rev. Viji Varghese Eapan. We conducted the election of the Christian Youth Movement committee members. Kesiya Justin was elected as Secretary and Kurian S.T was elected as the Joint Secretary. Meenu Markson was elected as the youth co-ordinator. Markson Abraham was appointed as the Magazine editor. Rev. Viji Varghese Eapan named our magazine as "RHYTHM". It was officially announced on 7th April in the church's whatsapp group. In the service held on April 16, Bishop of Madhya Kerala diocese Rt. Rev. Dr. Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian launched our manuscript magazine. Our Instagram account was officially opened by Irish Anglican Bishop David McClay. The next youth meeting which was conducted on 7th August 2022 conducted via zoom. The last youth meeting was held on 29.10.2022 via Zoom. I thank God for his presence in all our activities throughout this year. We are few in numbers but the Lord made us come this far. Thank you Jesus.

A sincere thanks to Miss. Kesiya Justin for coordinating the Youth movement events.

Birthday and Wedding Anniversary Reminders:-

As a congregation we continued to send greetings on the birthday and wedding anniversaries using the What's app closed platform for those who all are signed and agreed upon in align with the GDPR regulations.

A sincere thanks to Mrs. Smitha P Thomas for sending the greetings.

Hospitality:-

As a congregation we continued to meet after the service and spend time together and enjoyed the fellowship. Thanks to all the congregation members for their willingness to sponsor the food or to prepare the food.

A sincere thanks to all the Hospitality Coordinators for coordinating the events.

New members:

As a congregation we welcome all the new members who joined us in 2022.

Committee Meetings

Committee met on following dates.

- 23rd January- in Zoom
- 6th March- in Zoom
- 20th March - in Zoom

- 13th April in Zoom
- 11th June- in Church
- 10th July- in Zoom
- 24th September in Zoom
- 29th October in Zoom

Diocese level updates:-

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Following the retirement of former moderator of the Church of South India and the Bishop of Madhya Kerala diocese Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, Rt. Rev. Sabu K Cherian installed on 18th January 2022 as the 13th bishop of Madhya Kerala diocese. St Thomas CSI Church has conveyed our congratulations and greetings to the Bishop.

Joint Committee

A joint committee has formed to discuss future employment of Vicar with CSI members in UK. Mrs. Sosamma Kurian, Mr. Sunil Philip and Mr. Joby Philip Thomas are representing our Trustees.

Financial Commitment & Review

The Congregation's main source of income is members' contribution through the bank transfers or at the offering plates during the service. I would like to report all that we continue to collect the voluntary donation throughout the year 2022. The donations will be paid based on a unique identification number allowing all the members the option to keep anonymous in their giving. I would like to encourage all the Church members to be part of this in support of our financial requirements to continue worship here in Belfast in our own language.

I would like to thank all the congregation members for their contribution and other mission charity appeals during this report year. Our treasurer will provide more insight through his report, though as a small congregation it is very much encouraging to see the amount collected during this report year.

Annual General body meeting

Annual general body of the congregation for year 2021 took place on 12th March 2022 after Holy Communion service. Report and accounts for the year 2021 were presented and adopted by the congregation. A special GB with single agenda to get approval for procedures for filling the vacancy took place on 12th November 2022 after Holy communion service chaired by Markson Abraham.

Websites & Social Media

Our Church gets involved in the websites and social media sites during this digital age. We have a fully paid functional website and the events are published on the website which is widely used by many. Facebook is a very useful way to get information out quickly and to keep people in touch. Remember -anyone can post on Facebook so use it to promote our church and its events. Our Youth fellowship has an Instagram account to promote its events. At the minute WhatsApp is the most effective communication platform used among the Church members with regular updates on the worship services, fellowship prayer meetings, birthdays and anniversaries.

Data Protection

In order to align with the UK General data protection regulation (GDPR) requirements and to comply with the Drumbeg Parish Church requirements we are bound by law to secure our personal data of our members. Personal data relates to a living individual who can be identified from the data. Identification can be by the information alone or in conjunction with any other information in the data controller's possession or likely to come into such possession. The processing of personal data is governed by the GDPR. Hence, we have continued to use the GDPR personal information guidelines which will be applicable to all members of the St Thomas CSI Church. This is a mandatory requirement; hence all members must sign to continue use their personal information within our Church and this is specifically for the birthdays and wedding anniversaries. Secretary will act as the data controller and sole custodian of the church data.

Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and statements of the congregation in accordance with the applicable law and the generally accepted accounting practice within United Kingdom. The trustees are also responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time in its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets and the personal information of the congregation members

We are looking forward to:

- Our prayer is that every member would be an effective witness enabled by the Holy Spirit to share and proclaim their faith within our wider community
- That there would be a growing hunger to continue the discipleship
- Our youths and children will continue to grow in their faith.
- May the year ahead bring more activities to attract the younger generation.

- That God would be glorified in the congregational life to continue work as a servant act according to our masters will.

We look forward in faith to the year ahead in 2023 and pray that God will continue to bless us, and all that we do would be **only for his glory**.

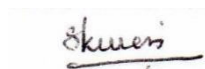
Let me quote the words Apostle Paul , “ *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*” (Romans 12:2)”. Let us move into the next year knowing God loves us and wants the best for us. Let's pray that in 2023, we will be focused on healing ourselves through repentance and renewing our minds. We were not meant to do life alone! We can bring the light of hope into our own hearts, home, and world.

Date: - 4th March 2023

Prepared by Secretary: - Joby Philip Thomas

Approved by the St Thomas CSI Church committee at a meeting held on 4th March 2023 and signed on behalf by

Chairperson



Sosamma Kurian

Secretary



Mr Joby Philip Thomas

Saint Thomas Church of South India Church Belfast

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107503

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of St Thomas CSI Church Belfast

I report on the accounts of the St Thomas CSI Church Belfast for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Independent Examiner:- Mr Joshy Jose



Address: 74 Olympia Drive, Belfast, BT12 6NH

Dated: 25th February 2023