

ST THOMAS CSI CHURCH BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM

Trustees Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December 2024

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
70 Drumbeg Road, Dunmurry
Belfast, BT17 9LE, United Kingdom

Correspondence & Registered Address: -

2 Sandymount Green, Newtownabbey, Belfast, BT36 5FB, United Kingdom

Board of Trustees:-

The Charity Trustees in this report year: -
Rev Sabi Mathew-Minister & Chair Person
Mrs. Sally Stephenson
Mr. Markson Abraham
Mrs. Smitha Raj Silvilet Sarojam
Mr. Sunil Philip

Church Committee

The Church Committee members of this report year:-

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mrs. Sally Stephenson | -Committee member & Church Warden |
| Mr. Markson Abraham. | -Committee member & Secretary |
| Mr. Sunil Philip | -Committee member & Treasurer |
| Mrs. Smitha Raj Silvilet Sarojam | -Committee member & Joint Secretary |
| Mrs. Sosamma Kurian | -Committee member |
| Mr. Gigi Philip Varghese | -Committee member |
| Mr. Bijo George | -Committee member |
| Mr. Alex Das Sathyadas | -Committee member |

Independent Auditor: -

Mrs. Sunil Joseph, 37A Breagh Hill, Portadown, BT63 5QG, United Kingdom

Choir

Choir Secretary & Choir Master -Mr. Varkey Abraham

Fire Warden- Mr. Joby Philip Thomas

First aiders

Mrs. Manju P Easow
Mrs Sonia Jeslet Joshy

Hospitality Team:

Mr. Markson Abraham
Mr. Sunil Joseph
Mrs. Meenu Sabu Maria
Mrs. Tini Cherian
Mrs. Ashamol Mathew

Women's Fellowship:

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|---------------------|-------------------|
| Mrs. Ashamol Mathew | (Secretary) |
| Mrs. Jancy Alex | (Joint Secretary) |

Youth Fellowship:-

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Mr. Alan K. Bijo | (Secretary) |
|------------------|-------------|

Men's Fellowship-

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Mr. Vincent PM | (Secretary) |
| Mr. Bijo George | (Joint Secretary) |

Sunday school Coordinators:-

Mrs. Prabha Philip
Mrs. Tini Cherian

Authorised bank Signatories: -

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Mr. Sunil Philip | (Treasurer) |
| Mr. Markson Abraham | (Secretary) |
| Mrs. Sally Stepehnson | (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, 10 Napton Close, Hayes, UB4 9RN

Solicitors:- Paul John & Co Solicitors, 11 Leytonstone Road, Stratford ,London,E15 1JA

UKBA Authorising officer:-Mr. Sunil Philip

E-mail:- csichurchbelfast@yahoo.co.uk

ST THOMAS CSI CHURCH 2024 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 2024.

Governance and Structure:-

St. Thomas CSI Church, Belfast operates under the guidance of its constitution, which was last reviewed in 2016. The revised constitution was formally adopted at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 8th February 2020. The church is a recognised and licensed congregation of the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese, Kerala, India. It maintains a mission partnership with Drumbeg Parish Church and functions under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Down & Dromore within the Church of Ireland.

The members of St. Thomas CSI Church predominantly belong to the Madhya Kerala Diocese of the CSI Church in India. As such, the church follows the liturgy, worship practices, and guidelines issued by the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese. However, from a jurisdictional standpoint, the church operates under the Church of Ireland's Drumbeg Parish Church in the Diocese of Down & Dromore, within the broader context of the Anglican Communion.

St. Thomas CSI Church is a registered charity in the United Kingdom, recognised by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (Registration Number: 107503) and His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The church's trustees, who serve as office bearers, are responsible for recruiting the Vicar (Minister) for the congregation. The Bishop of the Madhya Kerala Diocese appoints a Vicar, whose name is then submitted to the Bishop of the Diocese of Down & Dromore in Belfast. Following the completion of diocesan requirements and satisfactory Access NI checks, the Bishop of Down & Dromore grants the Vicar permission to officiate, authorising them to carry out ministerial duties within the Diocese of Down & Dromore. The congregation operates in accordance with the laws of Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Church Management

The management of the congregation is overseen by both the trustees and the church committee, chaired by the appointed Vicar. The board of trustees consists of the Vicar, Churchwarden, Secretary, Treasurer, and an elected member from the church committee. The church committee includes additional roles to support the smooth operation of the congregation.

Trustees and committee members are elected every two years during the AGM, typically held in March. All full and associate members of the congregation are eligible to vote in these elections. The trustees and committee are jointly responsible for the day-to-day management of church activities, including the maintenance of church 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.

2024 Reflection:-

We are in the 16th 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 16 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.

Worship Schedule

The congregation typically gathers for worship on Saturdays or Sundays, or during mid-week fellowship meetings. These gatherings provide opportunities for members to come together for fellowship, scripture study, and prayer. Throughout the calendar year, we conducted several worship services, including Holy Communion Services and Matins, as well as in-person fellowship gatherings, outreach activities, and weekly online Zoom meetings.

Holy Communion Services were held every weekend, offering CSI members across the UK the opportunity to participate in the CSI order of service, either in person or via the Zoom online platform.

The congregation’s outreach activities aim to connect with CSI members throughout the UK who are unable to travel long distances, while also addressing the pastoral needs of our wider CSI community in the UK.

| Frequency | Activity |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st Saturday of the month | Matin Service |
| 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 (Including Outreach Services) |
| 3 rd week of the Month | Sunday school |
| Outreach Fellowships | Varies depends on the Individual groups (Children, Youth, Women or Men) |

Fellow Prayer Meetings

We had 12 fellowship prayer meetings during this report year. Cottage meetings are a cherished tradition within our congregation, rooted in the spirit of voluntary fellowship. These gatherings take place online or in the homes of families who graciously open their doors, creating a warm and welcoming environment where we can come together in faith. The church arranges these meetings in response to the heartfelt desire of many families who find joy in hosting them.

Whether gathered in the comfort of a home or connected through an online platform, the essence of these meetings remains the same—sharing God’s word, praying together, and strengthening our bonds as a community of believers. The intimate setting, combined with the presence of fellow Christians, provides a powerful source of encouragement and spiritual growth in our walk with Christ.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the families who have hosted, participated, and supported these gatherings. Your dedication and hospitality continue to enrich our church community and inspire us to grow in faith together. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey.

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 September 2024. We are delighted to share that we successfully conducted a fundraising event after church, marked by enthusiastic participation from our congregation. The event brought together members in a spirit of unity and generosity, reflecting the strength and resilience of our community.

Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who played a role in making this event a success—those who organised, volunteered, contributed, and supported in countless ways. Your dedication and hard work were instrumental in helping us raise significant funds, especially during what has been a challenging year for our congregation.

This achievement is a testament to the unwavering commitment and collective effort of our church family. Your support not only strengthens our financial resources but also reinforces the bonds that hold our community together. Thank you once again for your generosity and heartfelt contributions. Together, we continue to grow stronger in faith and fellowship.

Carol Rounds

Christmas Carol rounds were held on 7th and 21st December 2024. We were blessed to have a wonderful time of fellowship during the in-person carol rounds. As part of our Christmas celebrations, these house-to-house carol visits were organised, with carolers spreading festive cheer by visiting the homes of our members. It was a heartfelt opportunity to connect with families, share the joy of Christmas, and extend warm seasonal greetings

Carol Service

Our 2024 Carol Service was on 21st December. Rev Sabi Mathew led the service at Drumbeg Church. Father Jobson Abraham, Vicar, St Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church Belfast was the guest speaker. Thanks to all the congregation members for their wider participation in the carol service.

Farewell to Rev Willie Nixon

The rector of Drumbeg has preached a farewell sermon to St Thomas CSI Church Belfast in June 2024 before his appointment as incumbent of Banbridge. Rev'd Willie Nixon, Rector of St Patrick, Drumbeg and his wife Caroline was with the St Thomas CSI Church Belfast members on a special farewell Holy Communion Service on Saturday 15th June 2024. It is with both a heavy heart and a deep sense of gratitude that the St Thomas CSI Church Belfast members gathered to bid a farewell to our Rev Willie Nixon. As Willie moved to embark on a new chapter in his journey of serving our Lord, we are honoured to have this opportunity to express our appreciation and love for all that he has done for our Church of South India. It was indeed a farewell message from Rev'd Willie on the theme of discipleship to the congregation. We as a congregation are very much thankful for all the support and encouragements during all these years.

Fathers day

St Thomas CSI Church Belfast marks the occasion for all the Fathers and those influenced being a Father. Remembering all the fathers who are far away and not in this world, surely feel their presence this day.

Picnic

Members of the St Thomas CSI Church Belfast had a very early start on Saturday 15th June, started the day with a short Holy Communion Service along with a farewell service for Rev'd Willie Nixon. A traditional Kerala breakfast awaited the congregation with a Yummy Appam & egg curry. The congregation boarded the bus at 10:30 AM headed off to the Silent Valley Mountain Park which is one of Northern Ireland's most spectacular attractions, located within the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. First drop off point was the Down Cathedral and the Saint Patrick's Grave. The Cathedral was built in 12th century on the site of a Benedictine Monastery, where Saint Patrick's remains are buried who is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland responsible for the Christianisation of Ireland in the 5th century. After a brief time on this pilgrimage to the cathedral and the museum, bus aimed to Mourne mountains to grasp its breathtaking scenic view. Upon arrival at the Silent valley mountain reservoir, hot Kerala Biriyanis lunch box was served immediately. Weather remained dry and sunny throughout the day to enjoyed the outing at the reservoir park. A fully boarded bus returned to the church premises by 6:30 PM. A worthwhile day out well spent among the fellowship of the CSI families in the Northern Ireland. It was a start of a mission accomplished for Rev'd Sabi Mathew and the Church committee in its effort to nurtures the relationships and promotes a sense of belonging and community among the CSI families, feeling incredibly inspired, rejuvenated and connected.

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 2024
 - ☐ Fundraising event - Outdoor trip & activities fund raising (unrestricted)
 - ☐ Fundraising event - Harvest Festival fundraising (unrestricted)-September 2024
 - ☐ Fundraising event - Choir uniform fundraising (unrestricted)
 - ☐ Fundraising event - Carols fund collections (unrestricted)
- Chosen charities for the Mission work in 2024
 - ☐ An Individual cause in India to meet an educational need.

Birthday and Wedding Anniversary Reminders:-

We as a congregation continued to share birthday and wedding anniversary greetings via the Whats-App platform for members who have consented in accordance with GDPR regulations.

We sincerely thank Mr. Alex Wilson for his dedication in sending these greetings

New Members

Over the last year, membership has increased. We are indeed excited to welcome all new families into our fellowship. We heartily welcome them to this fellowship.

Annual General body meeting

Annual general body of the congregation for year 2024 took place on 13th March 2024 after Holy Communion service. Report and accounts for the year 2023 and budget for 2024 were presented and adopted by the congregation.

Organisation Reports:-

1. Sunday school

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

All children from Primary 1 to Year 12 are welcomed to Sunday School class which will be held on the third Saturday at 10:30am before the Holy Communion Service. Each gathering, we will do the Bible reading, read Bible stories, learn Bible verses and use the materials called "Printables" which are Bible based materials for different activities like colouring and crafts for children. During the year 2024, children's participation in the Holy Communion Service and the Christmas Carol Service were very much appreciated. In accordance with the Drumbeg Parish Church Child Protection Policy, both of our Sunday School teachers Mrs Tini Cherian and Mrs Prabha Philip have been taken the required training and Access NI check. The teachers are so grateful to the Fellowship for granting children gifts during the Calendar year 2024. Always try to create the Sunday School time more fun and enjoyable for children so certainly needed encouragement from the Fellowship to make this possible and going forward.

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

2. Choir

Choir report prepared by Mr Varkey Abraham Choir Master & Choir Secretary.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn — shout for joy before the LORD, the King. Psalms 98: 4-6

Floating population constitute majority of our church members. This, coupled with the fact that most of our members are drawn from the nursing field, their rota changes and shift exigencies has also severely impacted attendance and consistency.

While as a church and a choir we have a long and arduous journey ahead, it is heartening to report that by His grace St Thomas CSI Church Belfast Choir has certainly made some positive impacts in our church services during the year under review.

Choir regularly participated and led the communion and matin services through out the year. Efforts have been consciously put in to include songs from Christian Lyrics in our services. As a routine at least one English hymn is being added in our regular services, with a view to involve youth and children in our services. With a view to familiarise rarely used songs these songs are being used prior to intercessory prayers. Traditional Church Hymns and Christian Lyrics have been revisited which a new approach and style.

Though as a choir we regularly participate in the church services, we have had two major occasions in 2024, the first being Choir Sunday in October 2024 and the Carol Service in December 2024 as the second one. Our choir members wholeheartedly participated in both these events to make them successful.

In December 2024 our Choir was officially dedicated. Besides, the choir has been provided with the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese's traditional choir uniform and processional cross, following which, the

choir has started ceremonial procession and recession at the beginning and closure of our communion services.

In 2025 we plan to introduce: Online practices, Liturgical responses, Musical accompaniments

I wish to thank each choir member and their parents and partners in their efforts to bring about positive impacts in our service order. I also acknowledge our vicar, the church committee, members in general, for their financial and moral support in enabling our choir to positively contribute to our church community.

A sincere thanks for all the Choir members and Choir Master.

3. Women's Fellowship

Secretary Mrs. Ashamol Mathew, Joint Secretary Mrs. Jancy Alex, and Acting Member Mrs. Subi Gigi (Secretary/Joint Secretary as required) have prepared this report.

A meeting for the election of office bearers was conducted on 17/08/2024. Following this, the first official meeting of the Women's Fellowship was held on 03/09/2024 at 8:30 PM, chaired by Rev. Sabi Mathew. Since then, regular meetings have been held every Tuesday at the same time under the leadership of Rev. Sabi Mathew and Sharon Kochamma. During each meeting, Rev. Sabi Mathew assigns a book from the Bible for the members to read, and in the following meeting, he leads a lesson based on it. The meetings also include intercessory prayers, worship through songs, and fellowship, making them a spiritually enriching experience for all participants.

Members of the Women's Fellowship have actively participated in the church service, taking on leadership roles. Additionally, Mrs. Tini Cherian delivered the message during the Women's Fellowship services.

A sincere thanks for all the Women fellowship Members.

4. Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship report compiled by the fellowship Secretary Mr. Vincent PM.

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".

Purpose of the Men's fellowship is to bring CSI Men together in the zoom online platform, though not gathered regularly in 2024, certain outdoor activities forced to cancel due to bad weather. Men's Fellowship members took part and led the 20th July 2024 service as part of the Men's Fellowship service, and also took lead roles in the Carol Service. It is indeed a great platform for the Men's to come together with other Belfast CSI Men and to have a friendship chat, get to know each other, Sharpens each other in faith, fellowship and grow for HIS purpose. Our 2025 motto will be based on Proverbs

27:17, "As Iron Sharpens Iron, so one man sharpens another", hoping and Praying that this fellowship will grow each day and help the men to grow in God's understanding in 2025.

A sincere thanks for all the Men's fellowship Members.

5. Youth Fellowship

Youth Fellowship report compiled by the fellowship Secretary Mr. Alan Kalarickal Bijo.

Introduction-The St. Thomas CSI Church Youth Fellowship in Belfast has had a fruitful and promising year. Through thoughtful discussions, active participation, and under the guidance of our vicar, Rev. Sabi Mathew, the group has made substantial progress in fostering spiritual growth and leadership among the youth.

Meetings-Two significant meetings were held during the year: the first on July 21, 2024 (conducted online), and the second on August 17, 2024, following the church service. We were blessed with the presence of Rev. Sabi Mathew at both meetings, where he offered valuable guidance and support, helping shape our discussions and decisions effectively.

Initiatives and Projects

Magazine-One of the most exciting projects discussed this year was the creation of a church magazine. This initiative generated considerable enthusiasm among the youth, as it provides a creative platform for deeper engagement with the church community. Although the project is still in the planning stages, we are optimistic about its launch in the near future.

Focus on Building Leadership- A core focus this year was on increasing responsibilities among younger members. The aim is to provide them with opportunities to develop leadership skills and prepare them for future roles within the church. This initiative is a key part of our strategy to cultivate a strong and effective leadership team. The youth have also taken the initiative to volunteer at major church events, which have been well-received by the congregation. These efforts have fostered a deeper sense of unity and ownership among our members, contributing to a stronger sense of community within the fellowship. The dedication and enthusiasm demonstrated through these initiatives have been commendable, and we look forward to continuing such efforts.

Social Media Engagement- We successfully restored our Youth Fellowship's Instagram page this year. While we have not yet fully utilised this platform, it now serves as an important communication tool for sharing updates, events, and information with the youth and the wider church community. In the coming year, we plan to enhance our presence on social media to increase engagement and outreach.

Involvement in Cottage Prayer Meetings- A key area of focus this year was the involvement of the youth in cottage prayer meetings. We were able to plan and attend a few prayer sessions during the reporting period. However, increasing participation in these meetings remains a priority for the coming year. We hope to engage more youth members in these prayer gatherings, offering them opportunities for spiritual growth and leadership within the church.

Conclusion- In conclusion, the past year has been marked by growth, collaboration, and new beginnings for the St. Thomas CSI Church Youth Fellowship. We are eager to build on the progress made, including the launch of the church magazine, the strengthening of leadership roles, and greater util-

isation of our social media platforms. With continued dedication and the unwavering support of Rev. Sabi Mathew, we look forward to further advancing these initiatives and making an even greater impact in the coming year.

A sincere thanks for all the Youth fellowship Members.

5. 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 team for coordinating the events.

6. Committee Meetings

The Committee met 11 times during the year to discuss and deliberate on the day-to-day running of the Parish, including 2 special committee meetings, 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 main source of income for our congregation comes from members' contributions, either through bank transfers or offerings collected during services. I am pleased to report that we will continue to collect voluntary donations throughout 2024. Contributions can be made using a unique identification number, allowing members the option to give anonymously if they prefer. I encourage all church members to support this initiative to help meet our financial needs and sustain worship in our own language here in Belfast.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all congregation members for their generous contributions and support of various mission and charity appeals throughout the year. Our treasurer will provide further details in their report, and it is truly encouraging to see the positive impact of the funds collected during this period.

Reserves Fund Policy

During this financial year, St Thomas CSI Church committee has decided to set aside reserves to provide financial stability and the means to sustain, improve and develop its mission. A reserves need to be set aside to meet expenses that are irregular in pattern. Committee members has determined to set aside the Gift aid received from HMRC towards the reserves fund which is an unrestricted fund.

Websites & Social Media

In this digital age, our church actively engages with websites and social media platforms to stay connected with the community. We have a fully functional website, where events are regularly posted and accessed by many. Facebook remains an essential tool for quickly sharing information and keeping people connected. Remember, anyone can post on our church's Facebook page, so feel free to use it to promote our events and activities.

Our Youth Fellowship also has an Instagram account to highlight its events. Currently, WhatsApp is the most effective communication platform for our church members, providing regular updates on worship services, fellowship prayer meetings, as well as 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.

Guidelines & Policies:-

Following an Internal review and HMRC audit survey on our Cybersecurity policies, committee has started working on the review of our current policies in support of our HR systems. Much of the Drumbeg Church policies will be applicable in terms of Child protection, Safeguarding, Fire safety, H&S and accident reporting policies with the exception of Finance management, Employment and Cybersecurity policies. Those exceptional policies will be owned by the Church committee, reviewed and updated with our Church requirements. St Thomas CSI Church Treasurer will be responsible for the Payroll processing in align with the Payroll schedule and coordinated with the accountant firm.

Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the congregation's annual report and financial statements in compliance with applicable laws and generally accepted accounting practices in the United Kingdom. They are also tasked with maintaining adequate accounting records to accurately show and explain the congregation's transactions, ensuring its financial position is disclosed with reasonable accuracy at any given time. Additionally, the trustees are responsible for safeguarding the congregation's assets and taking appropriate measures to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

As the congregation's total income does not exceed £250,000, the trustees have chosen, under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, to prepare a receipts and payments account along with a statement of assets and liabilities.

Conclusion

As we look forward to the year ahead, we hold the following prayers in our hearts

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

- Entire trustees and the Church Committee for their faithful service during 2024
- 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

- Rev Willie Nixon, Rector of Drumbeg Parish Church for the support to the congregation.
- Drumbeg Church committee of the Drumbeg parish church for allowing us to use the church premises.
- We are grateful to the Bishop of MKD Diocese Kerala 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.
- 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.
- We are also thankful to Mr. Merlin Prasad Alfred, Paul John & Co Solicitors for all the legal guidance for our congregation.
- We are also thankful to Mr. Jude Perera of Westridge Accounting firm for all the accounting works for our congregation.

We pray that every member of our congregation would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be an effective witness, sharing and proclaiming their faith within our wider community.

We seek a growing hunger for discipleship, inspiring each one to deepen their walk with God.

We pray that our youth and children will continue to grow in their faith, guided by His love and wisdom. We envision a year filled with activities that will attract and engage the younger generation, drawing them closer to God. Above all, we pray that God's name would be glorified in our congregational life, and that we would continue to serve as faithful servants according to His will.

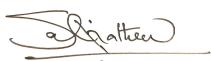
With faith, we look forward to 2025, trusting that God will continue to bless us. May everything we do be for His glory and honour.

Psalm 115:11 – "You who fear him, trust in the Lord—he is their help and shield.

Date: - 4th March 2025

Prepared by Secretary: - Mr. Markson Abraham

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



Secretary

Mr Markson Abraham