Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	04	2025	To	31	03	2026

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	**St.Thomas (Jacobite) Syrian Orthodox Church, Portsmouth, England. UK**
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1159301
Charity's principal address	77 Spitalfield Lane
	Chichester
	West Sussex
	Postcode **PO19 6SG**

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Fr. Philip Thomas	Vicar / President		General Body
2	Mr. James Thadathil	Vice President		General Body
3	Mr. Poly Varghese	Secretary		General Body
4	Mr. Joy P. Jacob	Treasurer		General Body
5	Mr. Ebin Varghese			General Body
6	Mr. Madhu Mamman			General Body
7	Mr. Reji P. Poulose			General Body
8	Mr. Basil Ulahannan			General Body
9	Mr. Sunny A. Alackal			General Body
10	Mrs. Zeena Jose			General Body
11	Mr. Rinish Kurian	Internal Auditor		General Body
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	The Church's Bylaw/Governing document is the constitution that has been submitted to the Charity Commission
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Unincorporated Charity
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Managing Committee members/ Board of Trustees are elected by the Annual General Body meeting

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Our Church St.Thomas (Jacobite) Syrian Orthodox Church, Portsmouth is an integral part of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church led by the Patriarch, the Supreme Head of Antioch and all the East, currently, His Holiness Mor Ignatius Aphrem II reigning the Apostolic throne of St.Peter. The Church also owes its allegiance to His Beautitude Dr. Joseph Mor Gregorios, the catholicos of the east (Malankara/India) and his successors, the regional head of believers. The Patriarchal Vicar (metropolitan in charge of UK) in consultation with the Patriarch governs and guides our church in the matters of faith.

The vicar/priest of our church is appointed by the Patriarch through the Patriarchal Vicar. Vicar is formally elected as the president by the General Body. The Annual General Body/meeting elects all the office bearers including secretary, treasurer, internal auditors and other managing committee members/board of trustees. All administrative and financial affairs of the church are managed and administered by the managing committee/board of trustees. The maximum number of trustees will be 10 excluding one or two internal auditors. The tenure of the elected managing committee is 2 years.

The managing committee/board of trustees meets regularly at least once in two months to deliberate and make decisions regarding the day to day affairs of the church including the approval of new membership applications and financial matters. A half-yearly general body meeting is also convened regularly.

We have set out strict rules for the spending and to regulate the use of funds. All Income and expenditure is budgeted at the beginning of the financial year. The accounts of the church are internally audited by the internal auditors, who are elected by the annual general body meeting.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The most important object of our organisation is to advance the religion of Christian faith especially that of the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in Hampshire, West Sussex and the adjoining areas of south part of England.

To maintain the faith, traditions and doctrines of Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church and to perform all the religious rites, Holy Eucharist, and the Holy Sacraments to all faithful members and the regular worship services.

Our objects include raising funds to organise activities for community development, religious and charitable activities for the welfare of the church members and also for the poor and needy in a wider society.

To organise and conduct Sunday school, prayer meetings, family camps & retreats and to promote youth association and women's association (Vanitha Samajam.)

To buy, rent, lease or acquire property and manage it for the church.

To alleviate poverty and sickness.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Our worship services include gatherings of all believers from Hampshire, West Sussex and the southern parts of England. In these gatherings we pray to God, learn Bible, the faith and traditions of our Church through the informative sermons of our priests and lay leaders. We teach our forthcoming generations about these through Sunday School lessons, Youth and Women's Association meetings as well as family camps and retreat.

In these worship services the most important sacraments of Holy Eucharist, baptism and wedding are administered as well. Our worship services finish with agape meals offered by families or funded sometimes by church to foster the aspect of sharing between us.

The parish members in difficult situations such as sickness, bereavement, depravity, poverty and family problems etc. are given special care through the house visits, counselling and prayers by our priests and trustees & volunteers. Sacraments such as anointing of the sick are done on such occasions.

The poor and needy in the society (of any religion or community), especially in India are given financial support. The collections from Christmas Carol services are reserved for this purpose, in addition to the voluntary contributions or donations to the charity fund. The applications come through the parish members from the needy in their home towns or villages in India and decisions over them are taken in the regular committee/trustee meetings.

At present the Holy Eucharist is celebrated every 2nd and 4th Saturday of all the months, in addition to the special services of Christmas , Passion Week and Parish day celebrations. The Sunday School lessons, Youth Associations and Vanitha Samajam (Women's Association) meetings are regularly organised after the worship services. Prayer meetings are conducted every Sunday and retreats are organised occasionally.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

We give donations to applicants recommended by parish members, only after proper verification of the genuineness and their existing financial status. The applications are placed at the committee/board of trustees meeting and decisions are made after detailed discussions. The amount of payment is decided at the committee meetings. The volunteers sometimes raise funds by accepting small donations or give donations to the church for charity purposes. They also bring forward charity applications from eligible families they know personally who are facing financial difficulties due to terminal illness or children's educational and general poverty.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Annual General Body meeting was conducted in the month of May, presided by the Vicar/President , Fr. Philip Thomas. The meeting had an appraisal of all activities of the church, including the progress of Sunday school, youth association and women's association (Vanitha Samajam).

We have successfully welcomed many new families as our members and volunteers during the year 2025-26. The holy communion services were conducted regularly on every 2nd and 4th Saturday of all the months, currently at St. Nicholas Church Hall, Brook Lane, Bosham–PO18 8JZ.

Parish Day and remembrance of St. Thomas: Parish Day celebrations were organised on 11th and 12th of July 2025. The holy communion services were led by invited Bishop (from India) H.G. Markose Mor Chrisostomos along with Vicar Fr. Philip Thomas on Parish Day. The Holy Mass was followed by the holy communion and special devotional message, prayers with incense, procession, benediction & love feasts. The Sunday school, Youth as well as Women's association (Vanith Samajam) annual day celebrations were successfully conducted in the evening of 12th July 2025 at Lavant Memorial Hall, Chichester.

Family Camp & Retreat: We have conducted a family camp at Queen Elizabeth County park, Petersfield on 28th Aug.2025 and most the families participated in it. Many families actively participated in the two days family conference and retreat conducted under the leadership of Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church Council (the Diocese) on 27 & 28th Sept. 2025 at Birmingham.

Christmas Carol Programme: During Christmas celebrations , we conducted a Carol Night on 13-12-2025 at Lavant Memorial Hall, Chichester. Almost all the families enjoyed the function and were served christmas puddings and refreshments. On 24th evening Christmas Mass and the Holy Eucharist were conducted by Vicar, Rev. Fr. Philip Thomas. He gave a Christmas message to parishioners followed by carol singing competitions by the Sunday School Students and youth Association members.

Sunday school: We conducted Sunday School classes regularly after the Holy Mass. The Sunday school takes initiative to educate children with spiritual guidance and moral aspects of life in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the faith & traditions of the Syriac Orthodox Church. The students are encouraged to attend church regularly and to study the scriptures. Annual arts and cultural competitions were conducted and prizes were distributed to winners as usual.

Youth Association: The Youth Association members had meetings after every Holy Mass and had good discussions about issues involving moral ethics leading to personal spiritual development which could help them to be good future citizens.

Vanitha Samajam (Women's Association): The Women's Association is a prayer group of women and they meet after the Holy Mass. It also has a secretary as a leader. Their activities include prayer, singing devotional songs, Bible readings, conducting Bible quiz, chain prayer, Bible presentations and messages.

We have made a charity donation of total £2150 this year to seven people who were financially poor and needy.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	The church reserves are held to fund its current and future activities. We are raising a building fund also in Bank Savings Account with an aim of building or buying an own Church (or for a long term leasing of a Church or a property which can be used for Church/worship services)
Details of any funds materially in deficit	There are no funds in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal source of fund is the monthly subscription from members and voluntary donations and contributions on special occasions like Passion Week, Parish Day and Christmas carol donations.

The church is run by volunteers who are not entitled to any remuneration, except the Vicar's/priests' allowances for pastoral services only.

The church does not have sufficient funds currently to invest in long term investments. The available funds are held as cash in mainstream Bank, as Savings Account (Building Fund). We keep this fund in savings account with an aim of building or buying a Church of our own or on leasehold basis if available.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Poly Varghese	Joy Palikodath Jacob
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	Treasurer
Date	12-10-2026.	

Charity Name	No (if any)
St.Thomas (Jacobite) Syrian Orthodox Church,Portsmouth,England,UK	1159301

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2025	To	Period end date 31/03/2026

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscription	13,010	-	-	13,010	12,085
Offertory	3,581	-	-	3,581	3,571
Donations & Contributions	10,394	-	-	10,394	5,721
Holy Mass Donation & Special Sacramental Donations	1,525	-	-	1,525	1,275
Family Camp Donation	1,250	-	-	1,250	655
Building Fund	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Interest	-	1,376	-	1,376	1,440
Gift Aid	10,459	-	-	10,459	5,664
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	40,219	2,376	-	42,595	30,411
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	40,219	2,376	-	42,595	30,411
A3 Payments					
Printing, Stationery, Postage & Bank charges	85	-	-	85	127
Vicar's/Priests' Allowances	4,200	-	-	4,200	4,950
M.S.O.C.(Diocese) & Rent	3,150	-	-	3,150	2,840
Passion Week, Christmas & Parish Day Expenses	7,545	-	-	7,545	3,873
Professional Expenses, (Accounting/Audit Fees)	661			661	300
Charity Payments	2,150	-	-	2,150	1,000
Family Camp & Retreat	3,020	-	-	3,020	1,636
Sunday School, Youth & Womens 'Association	2,166			2,166	442
Food & Refresments, Travelling Expenses	2,717			2,717	1,239
Misc. Expenses, Risheesa, Gifts etc.	509		-	509	671
Sub total	26,203	-	-	26,203	17,078
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	26,203	-	-	26,203	17,078
Net of receipts/(payments)	14,016	2,376	-	16,392	13,333
A5 Transfers between funds	- 10,000	10,000	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,707	84,448	-	91,155	77,822
Cash funds this year end	10,723	96,824	-	107,547	91,155

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in Hand	330	-	-
	Bank Current Account	10,393		-
	Bank Savings Account (Building Fund)		96,824	-
	Total cash funds	10,723	96,824	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Poly Varghese	12-10-26
		Joy Palikodath Jacob	12-10-26

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
St. Thomas(Jacobite) Syrian Orthodox Church
Portsmouth, UK
Charity No: 1159301

For the Period Ended 31 March 2026

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ACCA (Association of chartered certified accountants)
It is my responsibility to:
· examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
· to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
· to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement:

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

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention to indicate that:
1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Mr Forhad Monsur
FCCA, MAAT
Date: 26/10/2026

Monsur & Co Accountants
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