



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 01	April	2019		Day31	March	2020

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **ST.GREGORIOS INDIAN (MALANKARA) ORTHODOX CHURCH. LONDON**

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) **1000423**

Charity's principal address  
 St. Gregorios Church,  
 Cranfield Road  
 London  
 Postcode **SE4 1UF**

### 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. Aby Philip Varghese	Chair		Diocesan Bishop
2	Mr.Jacob Parakkala Mathew	Trustee ( Secretary)		General body
3	Mr.Roys philip	Trustee (treasurer)		General body
4	Mr.Praveen Mathew	Trustee		General body
5	Mr George Babykutty	Exofficio		General body
6	Mr Sisan Chacko	Trustee		General body
7	Mr.Varghese Joseph	Trustee		General body
8	Mr.Shiju Rajan	Trustee		General body
9	Mr Binu Ninan Chandy	Trustee		General body
10	Mr Santhosh K Abraham	Trustee		General body
11	Mr Joseph K Mathew	Exofficio		General body
12	Mr Sabu koshy	Exofficio		General Body
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
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**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

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**Section B Structure, governance and management**

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Governing documents as Constitution passed by the church 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 1989
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Society
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected managing committee members are the trustees

**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.

Trustees are elected from the eligible members at the Annual General Body meeting in March each year, which is followed by a joint meeting between the outgoing trustees and the incoming trustees. The formal handover of the reports and accounts takes place in this joint meeting as well as a briefing is given to new trustees emphasising their duties and responsibilities.

The Indian Orthodox Church, also known as the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church is an Autocephalous Orthodox Church with its central office in the Indian state of Kerala. The IOC is autonomous church and headed by the Catholicose. Its present primate is Baselios Mar Thoma Paulose II, Catholicose of the East. The structure of St. Gregorios Church, London is also episcopal polity. Churches in UK, Europe and African Diocese is currently under pastoral care of diocesan bishop Dr. Mathews Mar Thimothios.

The chairperson of the charity is the Vicar, who is normally appointed by the Diocesan Bishop for a period of three years.

Trustees are the managing committee members. Their term of office is one year. The managing committee is responsible for maintenance of the church and day to day administration. The trustees meet at least once a month. Risks are mitigated by a careful evaluation and budgeting of the income and expenditure at the start of the financial year. Misuse of funds and church property are safeguarded by strict adherence to the rules and regulations by all the trustees and church members.

**Section C Objectives and activities**

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

The principal object of the charity is advancement of Christian religion and particularly Orthodox faith, enabling as many people as possible to worship in our church and become part of our parish community.

The primary objective of the St. Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church is the manifestation of faith in the Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in accordance with the Apostolic and ancient traditions of the Malankara Orthodox Church. Our services and worship put faith in to practice through prayer and scripture and sacraments. The church shall enter into any activity to provide for the religious, educational and cultural needs as proper to the life of a Parish Church with the approval of the appropriate authorities and also benefiting the wider community.

**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)**

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish, through the Holy Eucharist, learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus Christ. The church as followers of Christ, tries to carry out the mission given to us by caring for the marginalised, less fortunate in the society. The disabled, diseased deprived people are supported with humble efforts.

Holy Eucharist is celebrated all Sundays and on every main Christian festival such as Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Christmas, enabling people from all communities join these services. For the convenience of the worshipers, simultaneous services are held at St. Andrew – By-The –Wardrobe Church, London EC4 and St. Gregorios Church, London SE4.

Pastoral care is an integral part of the whole ministry of the Church. Having a great variety of expressions, it focuses appropriately on the needs of individuals and social groups within the Church and wider community, irrespective of religious and cultural barriers.

The church is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually uplifting. The Patron Saint's day celebration on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 18 comprising of devotional addresses, folk dances depicting Christian themes and Holy Eucharist rejuvenate the Christian fellowship and oneness in Christ.

The parish day celebration on 19th October, 2019 was dedicated to the colourful cultural programs performed by all age groups of our parish with stage performances. The programmes were organised to express the hidden talents in the youth in the community and opening a window to channel their talents. All these develop self-confidence and social skills along with practical skills, enabling the strengthening of bond and commitment.

#### Ecumenical Relationships.

The church is a member of the Churches together in Britain and Ireland and Oriental Orthodox Churches and Brockley local churches.

The Church encourages all members to take part in the church activities in some form or the other. The large gathering of the faithful in these events imparts positive network of family and friends within a spiritual atmosphere enhances personal, socio-cultural and spiritual development.

#### Charitable activities.

In addition to advancing Christian religious faith, the church supports variety of charity work. In the reporting year a total of nearly Nineteen thousand pounds were dispersed to various charitable activities in India and U.K. Monetary grants to Eleven individuals in India with poor economic background to support their medical treatment and relief of sufferings. Food bank for local community needs were undertaken with the generous contribution of the members.. The policy on grants is very transparent. The application for grants are thoroughly vetted by the trustees and vicar and an appropriate amount is allocated based on the circumstances without any involvement of a third party agency and thus avoiding any overhead expenses.

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

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

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

### SENIOR CITIZENS FORUM

A meeting of senior members and young adults was held on Thursday 17th October 2019 at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Brockley. The session was held under the leadership H G Dr. Mathews Mar Thimothios, our Diocesan Metropolitan, in the presence of our vicar Fr. Aby Philip Varghese.

### KIDS FOR CHRIST (KFC)

The parish conducted a programme for the kids called Kids 4 Christ.

The entire day was devoted to teaching the children about various facets of the Holy Qurbana including various elements used in celebrating the Divine Liturgy and preparing our children for the new academic year. A wonderful opportunity to get our children to understand the significance of the Nicene Creed and participate the same with greater faith and understanding.

### CHRISTMAS CAROL

The door to door carol was successfully organised with the complete participation of the Brockley youth members, spreading the joy of Christmas, The generosity of our church members in these areas helped us raise good amount of money for the various charitable activities.

### SPORTS ACTIVITIES

We have a great pool of talented cricket players from youth and adults. We participated in the South Zone cricket tournament and played Three T20 cricket matches against STIOC Hemel Hempstead at Wallington (home) and Hemel Hemspead (away). We had a great year for our cricket team this reporting year by winning South Zone T20 cricket championship 2-1 against St Thomas IOC Hemel Hempstead.

BAITHO-Saturday, 13th July 2019 ( Day Out in Summer) was a successful outdoor event, when all the members of all age groups spent time in sports and entertainments. The day started at 9.00 in the morning with breakfast, sponsored by St. Mary's prayer group, followed by prayer and inauguration. This was continued by some yoga tips by our Vicar. The other activities included games and variety entertainment programmes. It was a fun-filled day out enjoyed by elderly, youth and kids alike. The true sportsmanship emerged from everyone to win every game they participated. MMVS is a ladies wing of the congregation having regular meetings and conferences from time to time, thus having

opportunities in meeting with other ladies groups.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The church has membership of nearly 330 families, many of whom are residents in other part of U.K but our services are open to all, We enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. There were 2 baptisms, and through baptism we thank God for the gift of life.

The Church realizes that the children are the foundations of the future society and hence great emphasis is given to provide for the development of their character enabling them to achieve and contribute to the society.

Regular Sunday school classes were conducted every Sunday for the children. The school follows the curriculum of the Orthodox Sunday school Association of the East. The curriculum focuses on lessons and thoughts from the Bible, history and traditions of the Church, prayers and offices of liturgy as well as activities including singing and drama, to promote self-development and social interaction. Through this, the Sunday School aims to provide a proper understanding of human values and how the Christian way of life can provide a caring and compassionate outlook to the society.

The church lays strong emphasis in the organizing of the Orthodox Vacation Bible School. This is an intensive programme aimed towards the children. Church members volunteer to organize the various activities as a part of the programme. OVBS was Two day event this time with 4 sessions of classroom learning and multiple music sessions. Our children enjoyed the delightful songs, some intense learning sessions.

In addition, personality development sessions were held for the benefit of the young children. We have developed our Safeguarding Policy a mandatory requirement and the volunteers who deal with children are all vetted by CRB checks.

## Section E Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

Total receipts of funds were £228,455 and total expenses were £222,269 The policy of the church is to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments, equivalent to £25,000 to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

**Details of any funds materially 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.

Principal source of the funds of the church is from voluntary contributions of membership and donations.  
The expenditure is budgeted ,spread in proportion to the needs of the various activities

## 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

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Mr Roys Philip	Mr. Jacob Parakkala Mathew
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Authorised person	
<b>Date</b>	24/01/2021	



**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2019	To	Period end date 31/03/2020
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**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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Voluntary Subscription	50,302			50,302	53,807
Voluntary Donations	94,751			94,751	86,109
Activities for generation of funds	1,345	26,231		27,576	51,397
Gift Aid HMRC	46,327			46,327	40,128
Cultural events	1,500			1,500	12,992
Sundry (Property)	2,070			2,070	-
Sunday School	5,929			5,929	5,262
Church Repair Insurance Claim				-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>202,224</b>	<b>26,231</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>228,455</b>	<b>249,696</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>202,224</b>	<b>26,231</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>228,455</b>	<b>249,696</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Wages (NI, Taxes)	14,658			14,658	19,101
Grants and donations		22,115		22,115	45,251
Mission of Congregation	22,115			22,115	35,350
Property Maintenance	45,030			45,030	19,384
Running costs	45,448			45,448	34,221
Stationery, Printing, Utilities	2,339			2,339	1,297
Cost of fund raising	2,048			2,048	1,097
Cultural events	2,070			2,070	2,671
Ecumenical & Organisational	5,000			5,000	5,000
Travel reimbursement	1,032			1,032	4,060
St. Andrews Church	3,750			3,750	8,000
Diocese Clergy, visiting dignitaries	19,177			19,177	19,182
Sunday school activities	7,293			7,293	9,558
Vicars ex gratia, solicitors fees, visa,				-	11,532
Parsonage mortgage, expenses, bills	30,194			30,194	29,395
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>200,154</b>	<b>22,115</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>222,269</b>	<b>245,100</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Parsonage Purchase			-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>200,154</b>	<b>22,115</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>222,269</b>	<b>245,100</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,070</b>	<b>4,116</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,186</b>	<b>4,596</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>77,404</b>	<b>20,758</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98,162</b>	<b>93,566</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>79,474</b>	<b>24,874</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>104,348</b>	<b>98,162</b>

**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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash Funds	35,220	8,703	-
	Reserve Fund	44,254	746	-
	Icons, Puthuran etc		15,425	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>79,474</b>	<b>24,874</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		<b>Unrestricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to nearest £</b>
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	St. Gregorios Church Building		1,000,000	1,250,000
	Parsonage		395,000	420,000
	Furniture and Fixtures		35,000	20,000
	Other assets for church services		10,000	900
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Roys Philip Jacob Parakkala Mathew	24/01/2021	





# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

ST,GREGORIOS' INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, LONDON

On accounts for the year  
ended

31/03/2020

Charity no  
(if any)

1000423

Set out on pages

2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities  
of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent  
examiner's statement

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

Independent  
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~\*)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

04.01.2021

Name:

Mr. Sunil Joseph

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Address:

198 Tamworth Lane, Mitcham  
Surrey  
CR4 1DE

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

