ST. GEORGE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ABERDEEN, UK

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Scottish Charity Number: SC053840

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The charity trustees are pleased to present their annual report for St. George Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Aberdeen, UK, for the year ended 31 December 2025.

1. Reference and administrative information

Charity name	St. George Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Aberdeen, UK
Scottish charity number	SC053840
Legal form	Unincorporated association
Principal / trustee address	14 Kingswood Road, Kingswells, Aberdeen, AB15 8TD
Main place of worship	St. Clements Episcopal Church, Mastrick Drive, Aberdeen, AB16 6UF
Website	www.stgeorgechurchaberdeen.co.uk
Reporting period	1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Charity trustees

1. Eldho Putheekal Thomas
2. George Soman
3. Georgey Ranjan Vattamala
4. John Varghese
5. Libin Thomas
6. Nisha Reji
7. Pretheesh Paul Chaitanya
8. Reena John
9. Siju Jype
10. Subash Kurien

Independent examiner

Paul Varghese

179 Anderson Drive, Aberdeen

AB 15 6BT

2. Structure, governance and management

Governing documents and constitution

The charity is an unincorporated association governed by its constitution. It was entered in the Scottish Charity Register on 9 December 2024. The charity operates in accordance with its charitable purposes and the terms of its governing document.

Appointment and induction of trustees

The charity trustees are the members of the Church Managing Committee. The office bearers and Managing Committee members are elected annually by the Annual General Body Meeting from eligible members of the Church. The Managing Committee's term of office is one year. The Vicar, who serves as President of the General Body and Managing Committee, is appointed by the Patriarch of Antioch, either directly or through the Patriarchal Vicar. Any vacancy arising during the year may be filled by co-opting an eligible member, subject to ratification at the next General Body Meeting. The constitution does not specify a formal induction or trustee-training programme. However, outgoing office bearers are required to hand over the relevant registers, records, accounts, documents and assets to their successors. Trustees are expected to carry out their duties in accordance with the Church's constitution and applicable charity governance requirements.

Organization and decision-making

The charity trustees are collectively responsible for the governance, strategic direction and proper administration of the charity. Day-to-day activities are supported by the priest, office bearers, committee members and volunteers, within the authority delegated by the trustees.

The charity is managed by the Managing Committee, whose members also serve as charity trustees. The Committee meets at least quarterly and is responsible for the Church's administrative and financial affairs. Bank accounts are operated jointly by the Secretary, Joint Secretary and Treasurer, with two authorised signatures required. The Secretary maintains formal minutes of meetings, which are signed by the Vicar as President.

Risk management and safeguarding

During the year, the trustees considered the operational risks associated with the Church's activities. An insurance was obtained covering activities conducted from hired premises, including worship services, Sunday School, the annual feast and the provision of food.

3. Objectives and activities

Charitable purpose

The charity exists to advance the religious faith of the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in Aberdeen and the surrounding areas.

How the charity carries out its purpose

- Providing regular worship and sacramental services in the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox tradition.
- Supporting Christian education and faith formation through Sunday School, Bible study and related activities.
- Encouraging prayer, fellowship and pastoral support for individuals and families.
- Providing opportunities for children, young people and adults to participate in church life and voluntary service.

- Promoting compassion, fellowship and service within the congregation and the wider community.

4. Activities, achievements and public benefits

Worship and sacramental life

During the year, the church continued to provide regular Holy Qurbana and other services in accordance with the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox tradition. These services brought members together for worship, prayer, teaching and fellowship. The church conducted regular worship services throughout the year. On the first and third Sundays of every month, morning prayers are held at 7:00 a.m. at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, Mastrick Drive, Aberdeen. These are followed by the Holy Qurbana, special intercessory prayers, a blessing sermon and the final benediction. The parish also conducted special liturgical services during Holy Week, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter celebrations and Christmas celebrations.

Children's and Youth Ministry

The church supported the spiritual development of children and young people through Sunday School, faith-based learning and opportunities to participate in worship and parish life.

The parish Sunday School continued to function well. Classes were held at the Church on the first and third Saturdays of every month in the evening. The parish specially commends all teachers for their dedicated service and thanks the parents who ensured that the children attended punctually.

The parish successfully conducted JSVBS on 23, 24 and 25 October with the full cooperation of the children and parents. The theme for the year was "I Will Rejoice in the Lord."

Rev. Fr. Elias Varghese led the programme. The parish offers its sincere thanks to the Vicar, the teachers who led the classes, and all parents who sponsored food and fully supported the programme.

Angel George from the parish was selected as the Zone 1 JSOSM Representative.

Family and community fellowship

Prayer meetings, family gatherings and fellowship activities helped strengthen relationships, mutual support and participation within the church community. A children's day out was organized by the parish on 6 September. The parish thanks all parishioners who supported the event.

The annual parish BBQ was held at Aden Country Park on 21 June.

The feast commemorating the parish patron, St. George the Martyr, was celebrated on 16 and 17 May. The Holy Qurbana was celebrated by Rev. Fr. George Parakkattil, Rev. Fr. Eldhose Thottappally and Rev. Fr. Elias Varghese. As in previous years, the feast was celebrated with a procession, intercessory prayers, the nercha meal and an auction.

Christmas services and the Holy Qurbana were held on 24 December. These were followed by a Christmas play by the Sunday School children, carol songs and a fellowship meal.

On 31 December, the Holy Qurbana was celebrated by the Vicar, Rev. Fr. George Parakkattil.

Women's ministry and volunteering

The church encouraged participation through its women's fellowship and wider volunteering opportunities, supporting prayer, fellowship, service and the practical life of the parish. St. Mary's Vanitha Samajam of the parish continued to function well by organizing regular meetings.

Public benefit

The trustees consider that the activities described above furthered the charity's religious purpose and provided public benefit by making worship, Christian teaching, fellowship and opportunities for service available to the community it serves.

5. Financial review

Financial results

The financial statements accompanying this report set out the charity's receipts, payments, assets and liabilities for the year. The figures below must agree exactly with the approved accounts.

Summary	Amount (£)
Total receipts	£21558.54
Total payments	£20870.60
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	£687
Cash funds at year end	£10045.29

Principal sources of income and expenditure

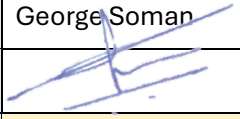
The Church's principal sources of income during the year were member subscriptions, Sunday offerings, special collections, donations. Expenditure was primarily incurred in supporting worship and parish activities, including church hall hire, clergy honoraria, charitable donations, parish events, Sunday School activities, administrative costs, insurance and other operating expenses necessary for the advancement of the Church's charitable purposes.

6. Plans for the future

The Church's priorities for 2026 are to continue its programme of worship, strengthen Sunday School and youth activities, encourage greater family and community participation, support charitable and diocesan initiatives, maintain effective governance and financial stewardship, and continue fundraising to support the long-term development of the parish.

7. Trustees' responsibilities and approval

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Scottish charity law and the charity's governing document. The trustees have approved this report and authorised the trustee named below to sign it on their behalf.

Approved by the trustees on	1st February 2026
Signed on behalf of the trustees	George Soman
Signature	
Print name	George Soman
Position	Church Secretary