



**MALANKARA ORTHODOX
SYRIAN CHURCH**(INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH)

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UK REGISTERED CHARITY : 1159302

+METROPOLITAN ABRAHAM MAR STEPHANOS

**MALANKARA HOUSE
35 HENMAN CLOSE
SWINDON SN25 4ZW
UNITED KINGDOM
TEL: +44 1793 921224
MOBILE: +44 7391 210127**

**E-MAIL: metropolitan@indianorthodoxuk.org
abrahamstephanos@mosc.in**

No. E-178/AMS/2024

11 October 2024

Blessings to the faithful of the Indian Orthodox Church in North Yorkshire, in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity:

Dear beloved in Christ,

By the grace of God and with heartfelt joy, in reference to the letters dated 15 May and 10 October 2024, I officially announce the formation of the new congregation, which will henceforth be named St. Lukes Indian Orthodox Congregation, North Yorkshire.

This marks a significant moment in our mission to gather our people, who are scattered across different regions, for unified worship. As you have stated, our faithful have been identified in areas such as Harrogate, Thirsk, Malton, Ripon, Scarborough, and Bridlington, all representing the strength and potential of our growing community. It is imperative that we continue to put in greater effort to bring together all our people, and I am deeply encouraged by the commitment demonstrated thus far. The congregation should bring together our people in North Yorkshire, particularly in the regions mentioned above.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the great pastoral care and leadership offered by Father Happy Jacob, whose tireless efforts have brought our faithful together in this region, providing them with spiritual guidance and support.

To further strengthen this community, I hereby appoint Fr. Tijo Varghese, 80 Kitchener Street, YO318SA, York, North Yorkshire as the priest in charge of St. Luke's Indian Orthodox Congregation until further orders are issued. Under his leadership, I instruct the newly formed congregation to operate strictly in adherence to the 1934 Constitution of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and the laws of the land.

In the words of St. Paul to Timothy, *I remind you to hold fast to the sanctity of the life of the Church, as you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.* (I Timothy 3:15).

Finally, let us always uphold our true apostolic faith as St. Paul reminds us of the great mystery of godliness:

"Without any doubt, the mystery of godliness is great:

He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory." (I Timothy 3:16)

May God continue to bless and guide you as you strive to gather His people in this sacred mission.

With prayers and blessings,

+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos