



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH (INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH)

DIOCESE OF UK • EUROPE • AFRICA •
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

No. E-40/AMS/2025

04 March 2025

Dear Vicars, Office Bearers, and Beloved Faithful of the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa,

Greetings in Christ!

It is with deep gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose that I write to you regarding the sale of the property at 35 Henman Close, Swindon, UK, which has served the Diocese faithfully for several years. As we take this step forward, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for the tireless efforts, sacrifices, and selfless contributions of so many who made the acquisition and sustenance of this property possible.

A Debt of Gratitude

First and foremost, we thank God for the unwavering love, care, hard work, and prayers of His Grace Dr. Mathews Mar Thimothios Metropolitan, whose dedication was a driving force behind the acquisition of this property in 2015.

- ◆ While it is impossible to name every individual who played a crucial role, I would like to acknowledge with deep appreciation the following:
- ◆ The Trustees of the Property, from the time of its purchase until today, for their responsibility and stewardship.
- ◆ Those who campaigned in support of Thimothios Thirumeni, searching for a suitable property, traveling tirelessly among the homes of the faithful, and leading the fundraising efforts.
- ◆ The clergy members who continually prayed and worked for the sustenance of this project.
- ◆ The Diocesan Secretaries and the Councils, both at the time of purchase and in subsequent years, for their governance and guidance.
- ◆ The Management Committee members of the Church and the leaders of the Spiritual Organizations, as needed from time to time.
- ◆ The General Bodies, from the inception of the project to the present, for their collective decision-making.

- ◆ All those who contributed, whether through substantial donations, direct debits, or personal loans, demonstrating their generosity and commitment to the growth of the Church.
- ◆ Those who took care of the upkeep and maintenance of the property over the years.

There have been countless visible and invisible hands that have shaped this journey, and while words may fail to acknowledge them all, God, who sees all things, will surely reward them abundantly.

A Vision for the Future

The present General Body and Diocesan Council have made this decision to sell the property with a firm vision of expanding our mission and stretching our wings further. With this in mind, the General Body has consensually decided:

1. There should be an official Diocesan Office and a residence for the Metropolitan, within a commutable distance to the City of London.
2. The Diocese should establish, in a feasible location, a larger centre to serve the growing needs of our faithful.

To this end, the 'Building Search Committee' and the Council have jointly begun working towards materialising this vision.

A Request to Continue Supporting the Mission

To those who have Direct Debits currently active for the Swindon Property, I extend my sincere gratitude for your generosity. At the same time, I humbly request you to continue supporting the Diocese, as we move forward in faith. Though locating the present contact details of all Direct Debit contributors is a challenge, the Office is making every effort to reach out. I sincerely hope to personally express the gratitude and indebtedness of the Church to these families.

As St. Paul so beautifully expresses in his Letter to the Philippians:

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you." (Philippians 1: 3-4)

With this same spirit of gratitude and prayer, I entrust our Diocese into the hands of God, who has been Merciful to us in the past and will surely guide us into the future. May our collective efforts, sacrifices, and prayers continue to strengthen the foundation of our Church for generations to come.

Prayerfully,



+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos