

# ERITREAN BETH-EL CHURCH IN LONDON

England & Wales · Charity number 1083084

## Details

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**Other names** ERITREAN BETH-EL CHURCH IN GREATER LONDON

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2000-10-30

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Eritrean Bethel Church  
Unit 1 Oska Building  
Empress Works  
Boreham Road  
London  
N22 6SL

**Phone** 02088894003

**Email** [Info@betheluk.org](mailto:Info@betheluk.org)

**Website** [betheluk.org](http://betheluk.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 1. TO ADVANCE RELIGION AMONG THE ERITREAN COMMUNITY IN GREATER LONDON BY PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN THEIR MOTHER TONGUE; 2. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE ERITREAN COMMUNITY IN GREATER LONDON IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THEIR INDIGENOUS AND BRITISH CULTURES AND WAYS OF LIFE; 3. TO PROVIDE ADVICE, INFORMATION AND PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE MEMBERS OF THE ERITREAN COMMUNITY IN GREATER LONDON WHO ARE IN NEED OF SUCH SERVICES.

**Activities:** The charity operates in throughout the UK with its main base being in Unit1&2 Oska Building Boreham Road Wood Green London N22 6SLActivities include Regular Sunday worship service,prayer Bible study.Providing young people with practical, emotional support, sport activities, arranging conferences.Counselling.Mother tongue classGeneral advise on issues of housing,education,health

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** GREATER LONDON
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£324,167	£210,586	-	-
2023-12-31	£260,969	£203,755	-	-
2022-12-31	£233,117	£166,749	-	-
2021-12-31	£186,127	£129,787	-	-
2020-12-31	£188,971	£135,631	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
GOITOM SIUM MEBRAHTU	Chair	
ASHEBER TESFAY		
BINIAM BEREKET		
Daniel Weldy		2023-10-01
Dawit Araya		2023-10-01
Dr Mesghina Abraha		2023-10-01
GOITOM GULAY		
MUSSIE HABTE		
NATANIEL YEMANE		
Samson Amanuel Menghistu		2023-10-01
Teklit Gebrekirstos		2023-10-01

**ERITREAN BETH-EL CHURCH IN LONDON**

England & Wales - Charity number 1083084

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# Accounts

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**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
of  
Eritrean Beth-El Church in London  
Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2024**

Charity Number: 1083084

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## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Registered Charity Number**                      1083084

**Registered Office**                                      Units 1 and 2 OSKA Building  
Empress Works  
Boreham Road  
N22 6SL

<b>Board of Trustees</b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Role</u></b>
	Nataniel Yemane	Chair
	Dr Mesghina Abraha	Secretary
	Samson Amanuel Menghistu	Treasurer
	Goitom Sium Mebrahtu	Trustee
	Goitom Gulay	Trustee
	Asheber Tesfay	Trustee
	Biniam Bereket	Trustee
	Mussie Habte	Trustee
	Teklit Gebrekirstos	Trustee
	Daneil Weldy	Trustee
	Dawit Araya	Trustee

**Bankers**    Barclays Bank  
Brixton Branch  
463-465 Brixton Road  
London, SW9 8HL

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The Trustees present their report with financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)' Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Eritrean Beth-el Church in London (EBC) is a Church and a Charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The management of the church is the responsibility of the Trustees who are appointed on a permanent basis. The Trustees meet on quarterly basis. The day-to-day management including the implementation of strategies approved by the Trustees is delegated to the Board of Elders, whose members are elected by the members of the church on Five years interval. There are 4 part-time pastors, and 1 part-time office admin employed by the church.

### **TRUSTEES' INDUCTION AND TRAINING**

New Trustees are trained by a delegate of the chair using the charity commission guidance paper. Existing Trustees attend training from time to time to keep up to date with the latest requirements and best practice. In addition, informal learning continues to take place on an on-going basis.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees have the duty to identify and review the risk to which the church is exposed to and ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide a reasonable assurance against the identified risks. The Trustees have assessed all the major risks that may affect the operation of the church in the foreseeable future and are satisfied that there are systems in place to manage the exposure to them.

### **FREEHOLD PROPERTY**

The Trustees act as custodian (registered owners) of Eritrean Beth-el Church in London main freehold property which is used as its place of worship (Unit 1 and 2 OSKA Building, Empress

Works, Boreham Road, Turnpike Lane, London N22 6SL) and (Sterling Road, Wood Green, N22 5BT) which is currently rented to another church as a place of worship.

### **OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

1. To advance religion among the Eritrean Community in United Kingdom by proclaiming the gospel of Lord Jesus Christ in their mother tongue.
2. To advance the education of the Eritrean Community in the United Kingdom in all matters relating to their indigenous and British culture and way of life.
3. To provide advice, information and practical assistance to those members of the Eritrean Community who are in need of such service.

### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

During 2024 The church operated its work and all services from its main church at Boreham Road in Turnpike Lane, Wood Green N22 (Sunday services and mid-week services), this building is also used as the base for small group prayer, bible study, support, advise, counselling and other small to medium size meetings. The Board of Elders consists of 11 people with four of the leaders being paid a part time salary, three of them working for 16 hours and one 21 hours a week.

The Board of Elders works closely with the church Trustees, the church Deacons and the wider church membership.

EBC is a member of Alliance of Eritrean Churches in the United Kingdom and continues to work in partnership with all churches and carry out its outreach work within the United Kingdom.

### **PRAYER GROUP**

The prayer teams are the backbone of the church and are very dedicated to prayer and they partner with the Holy Spirit to release the love and power of God to those in need. There are regular prayer sessions via Zoom and in person.

The Prayer session via Zoom is, Monday to Friday, every morning from 5am to 7am and evening from 8p to 10pm. Also, prayer at individuals request during the Zoom prayer sessions or pre-booked one to one prayer via Zoom. The prayer sessions in person are held at the church premises, Boreham Road, N22 6SL.

Every Monday from 7pm to 9pm, in the pastor's office Also a monthly prayer and fasting on the second Saturday of each month from 11:30am to 4:00pm followed by fellowship and refreshment

time together until 6pm. Moreover, in year 2024, two 21 days prayer and fasting were organized and held in the month of March, which carried on to April and the second one in October. Many more prayers at individuals request during the Sunday services or at their home address or in hospitals.

The prayer team are always passionately praying for the Youth and children and families in our church, for the gospel to be preached and for the salvations of new souls, for our people in Eritrea and for the healing of the land, for the people who are in prisons, for the sick and weak souls and many more.

Due to the current conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, the prayer team also pray passionately and intercede for peace in Eritrea and Ethiopian and all other nations in similar situation. The prayer team regular hold meetings to evaluate the progress and the prayer demand and had virtual fellowships via Zoom and in person at a restaurant. The goal of this team is to help equip and keep the church members praying faithfully and effectively on an ongoing basis.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

Bible study sessions are one of the best places for people to grow spiritual and develop their knowledge in the word of God [Bible]. Therefore, the Bible Study leaders always encourage everyone to participate in the discussion, ask questions, lead in prayer and share the word of God from the provided Bible Study material. However sometimes members might shy away from volunteering, due to their levels of knowledge in the word of God and the lack of participation forces the Bible Study teachers to teach by themselves, while helping and encourage the Bible Study members to grow in confidence and be able to participate in the discussion, to lead in prayer and share the word of God. Bible Study is the best way to shepherd and to fellowship.

The Bible Studies are held at individual's homes. Currently there are ten active Bible Study groups in all areas of London, UK, with 21 leaders & teachers. This year's, Bible Study material is THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, this material help guide the Bible Study teachers and keep the church members spiritually harmonised. The material has been sectioned in parts and the first part that was studied is THE GOSPEL OF JOHN PART ONE (CHAPTERS 1 - 12), followed by part two of the book.

As a church procedure once the material was prepared and drafted as a book, the Bible Study leaders & teachers met to read and discussed the material in detail. Then it was presented to the church Elders, Deacons and the Bible Study leaders for censor, before it was sent for print. Once approved it was printed and distributed to the church members.

In each of the Bible Study the number of attendees vary and approximately six to twelve members attend in a session. Members are always being encouraged to join the Bible Study groups and new people have joined at the beginning of this year.

Out of the ten Bible Study groups, seven are conducted virtually via Zoom so member can attend from the comfort of their home and the remaining three are in person, members of the group gather at individual's home.

The church leaders and the Bible Study leaders always encourage members to organised special occasions, to fellowship together. Most of the Bible Study groups go out every Christmas for dinner and fellowship, either in December or in January of the New Year, depending on their arrangement. Also, members are always encouraged to support each other during Weddings, visiting during childbirth or celebrating birthday, bereavements and many more. The goal of this team is to help equip and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **DEPARTMENT OF MISSIONS**

Bethel Church has had a Department for Missions since 2002. The church leadership believed that Bethel should be at the forefront of God's work of salvation through missions. To this end, various practical measures were taken to facilitate its vision. The Department has been sending short-term missionaries to the Horn of Africa for two decades. These include countries such as Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Djibouti.

The short-term mission teams have been engaged in evangelistic campaigns involving several local churches in Khartoum as well as in Ethiopia during 2003. During the evangelistic campaign, the appropriate trainings were given to members of the churches to do personal evangelistic work prior to the main campaign week. Others were provided with appropriate trainings so that they might help the newly converted people. Evangelistic literature has been prepared and distributed in the targeted area.

Bethel Church believes that it has a divine mandate to address not only people's spiritual needs, but also its material needs. Therefore, the church has had a feeding program to the desperate people, especially those in Sudan. This particular scheme has helped hundreds of people with food, clothing and other essential materials. The recipients of the love gift provided by the church were grateful, and many of them saw God's love in action and responded to the evangelistic message positively.

The evangelistic outreaches in the Horn of Africa, and especially in Sudan were aimed at two national groups; these were mainly Ethiopians, Eritreans refugees residing in Khartoum. The churches in Khartoum were convinced that unity is of utmost importance, especially if evangelism and mission work is to be carried out successfully. And by God's sheer grace and mercy the work of mission has had a greater impact in the capital Khartoum. Many people, who previously were indifferent to the Gospel message, responded positively once they saw God's healing power and the ministry of exorcism. It is estimated that during the ten years period from

2004 to 2014 an estimated 2000 people have come forward to receive Jesus as their saviour, and a great majority of them were baptized in water.

Bethel church's mission among the Eritrean refugees in Northern Ethiopia had made a significant impact. Unlike in Sudan however, here a different approach was used to carry out the missional mandate. The reason behind implementing a new approach was because of the delicate security situation around the camps. In addition, some of the Eritrean Orthodox church leaders in the camps opposed the evangelistic campaigns. Therefore, the mission's team from Bethel and the local evangelical churches devised a new approach. Instead of holding mass evangelistic meetings, they used small group evangelistic programs. Moreover, the charity work to help the needy refugees had a prominent role in opening a relationship with the locals. This new approach opened a greater door of opportunity for the Gospel work.

In addition, the Mission Team gave counselling to the bereaved and traumatized. As a result, many testified that these therapeutic provisions have helped them.

In the year 2024 no evangelistic related activities were carried out. This was since the security situation in Sudan and Ethiopia was not conducive to carry out such activities. As the security situation in the Horn of Africa improves, we will resume the evangelistic and relief activities in the region.

#### **BETHEL BIBLE COLLEGE**

Bethel Bible College (BBC) sessions have the aim of supporting students within the Eritrean community in their education. The sessions are conducted both face to face and distance learning modes. For distance learning mode synchronous learning with live video streaming via Zoom, are streamed to students across the World. Streamed video lessons are also loaded into Moodle Learning Management System for LMS for asynchronous learning, making the delivery of the content more flexible for students that cannot attend face-to-face sessions or the live video streaming, for many different reasons including time restrictions. The lessons sessions are mainly conducted via Zoom with live video streaming, also delivered Face-to-Face to students, in branches including Addis Ababa Ethiopia, Juba & Kassala in Sudan, Jeddah & Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, Edmonton in Canada, Australia and Boston & Nashville in USA. During this period ten bible theology courses to each class including Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Bachelor's Degree. Additionally Language Elective courses are also given, including Intermediary Tigrinya, Introductory Hebrew and Introductory Greek.

The programme started with 27 students for the first time as pilot Face-to-Face project in London, United Kingdom, from January 2017 till December 2017. In 2018 the number of students increased to 58 who completed the courses successfully with 33 Face-to-Face from local churches in London as well as 28 online distance learning from all over the world. After completing their

studies successfully, graduated at certificate level. In year 2019, the college extend the courses to diploma level and enrolled more students from all over the world including Europe, Canada, America, Australia, Africa and Israel, energised by the good previous student's engagements and the successful delivery of the online streaming of the lessons. Every year most of the certificate students continue their studies into the Diploma courses. In year 2021 the college also introduced a new course in Advanced Diploma level.

In year 2022 the college successfully delivered all lessons in three of the levels Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma, and celebrated graduation ceremony in all of the countries, including London United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, Juba & Kassala Sudan, Jeddah Saudi Arabia and Edmonton Canada and Houston Texas USA.

In year 2023 BBC seeing the determination and dedication of the student year after year, the college introduced a new course in Bachelor's Degree level, which is a two-year course. Started as a Year 4 in year 2023 and the student will graduate in Bachelor's Degree in year 2024, once they complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> year class. Again, the college successfully delivered all lessons in three of the levels Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma and celebrated graduation ceremony in all the countries, including Europe in Denmark, Africa in Juba, Sudan and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Jeddah & Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and Edmonton, Canada and Boston & Nashville, USA. This year no graduation ceremony was held in UK, as the students from UK was encouraged to travel to Europe and they graduated in Denmark.

In year 2024 BBC yet again another successfully delivery of all lessons in all four of the levels Certificate, Diploma Advanced Diploma and in Bachelor's Degree, and celebrated graduation ceremony in all the countries, including Europe in London UK & in Denmark, Africa in Juba, Sudan and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Edmonton, Canada.

In 2024 the following number of students successfully completed their lessons and attended graduation ceremony.

- Certificate Level 125 Students
- Diploma Level 91 Students
- Advanced Diploma 59 Students
- Year 4 (1<sup>st</sup> Year of BA) 28 Students
- Bachelor's Degree 16 Students

In total 319 students successfully completed their lessons and attended graduation ceremony. 28 of the total students, who graduated in Year 4 level, 23 of them are students studied in Adiss Abeba Ethiopia and there are no BA classes in Ethiopia, due to short of resources. However once completed year 4 with BBC, they have an opportunity to continue their studies with a partner university in Ethiopia. The other 5 students have studied the Year 4 level in Edmonton Canada

and the graduation was only for acknowledgement as the students will continue their studies of the BA level in year 2025, as the BA class is a two-year program therefore the students will graduate in year 2025/26, once they complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> year class.

A long-term plan is to expand the programme to reach more members of the community, especially people in disadvantaged areas such as those who cannot access to a theology course in the places, they reside including refugees.

## **BETHEL MEDIA MINISTRY**

This year has been a season of significant growth and achievement for our media team. Through dedication and teamwork, we have made great strides in enhancing our technical capabilities, expanding our outreach, and contributing to the church's vision. Below is a summary of our key accomplishments and ongoing projects:

### **1. Live Streaming & Sunday Worship**

We successfully maintained our weekly Sunday morning live streams, ensuring members across the globe can join us in worship. Improved streaming quality and reliability to provide a seamless experience for online attendees.

### **2. Technical Team Progress**

Upgraded and fixed sound system issues, delivering clearer audio for both in-person and online services. Invested in new equipment to elevate our sound system to an excellent standard.

### **3. Social Media & Digital Outreach**

Effectively utilized social media platforms to promote weekly sermons and engage with our community. Created and shared short videos to inspire and reach a wider audience.

### **4. Equipment & Team Development**

Purchased new PCs for the overhead song team, improving presentation quality. Conducted sound system training to enhance team skills and efficiency. Organized a team-building outing, fostering stronger collaboration and unity.

### **5. New Church Building Project**

Played an active role in planning the future sound system and media infrastructure for the new building. Collaborated with architects and designers to ensure optimal audio-visual setup. Research had and evaluated sound system installation companies, balancing budget and quality. Successfully obtained council approval for the building project.

## **Conclusion**

This year has been both productive and rewarding, with many milestones achieved and exciting developments on the horizon. We are grateful for the progress made and look forward to even greater impact in the coming year.

## **FAMILY MINISTRY**

The Family ministry focuses on reviving & restorative message of the everlasting gospel within the context of family living. To affirm and strengthen every Christian family as a primary discipline unit. To enable parents & families to increase the likelihood of successful transference of Christian values to the next generation. To empower families for winsome witness and to create a "family of God" experience in Eritrean Bethel Church.

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

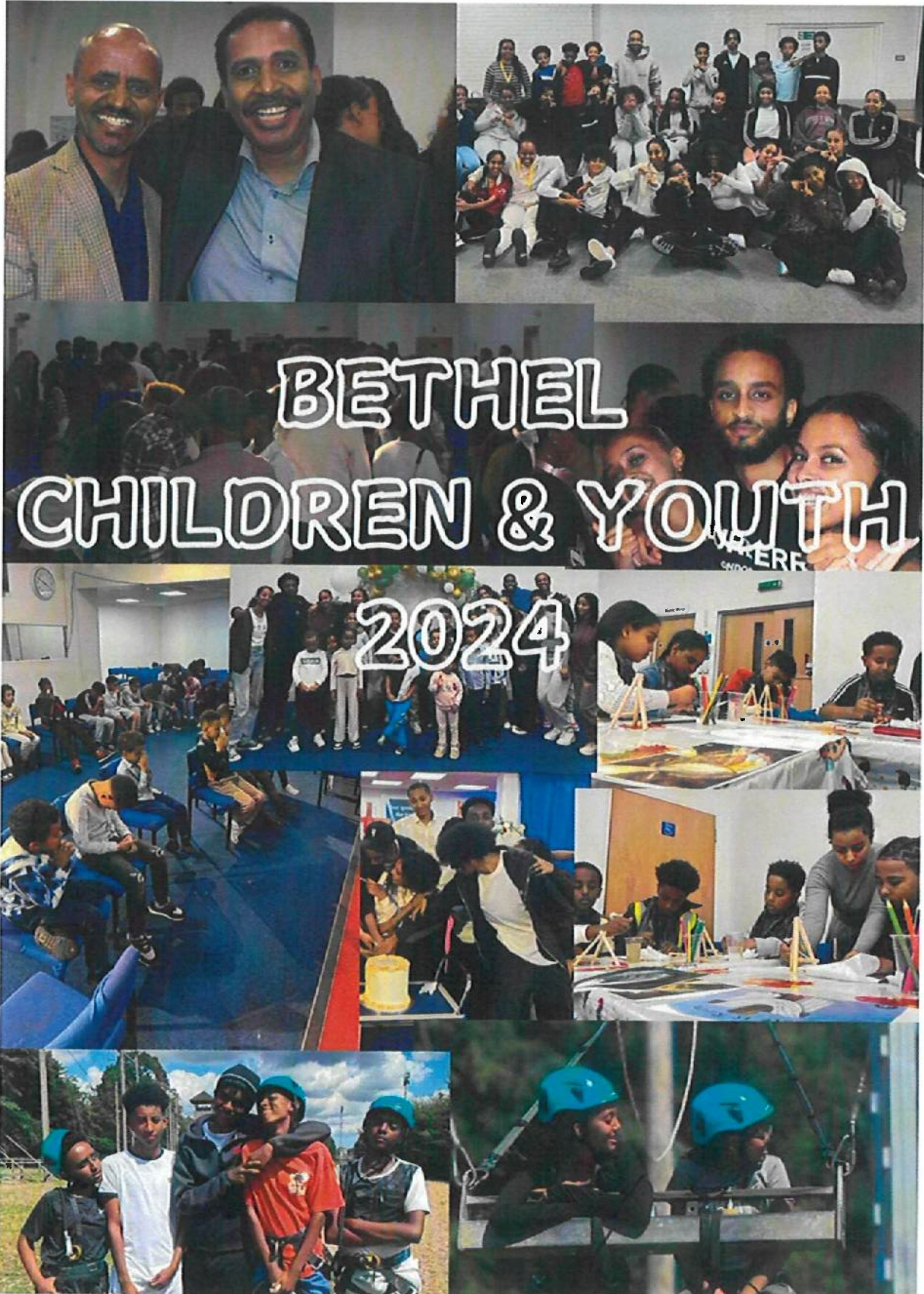
Summary of the activities undertaken by the Bethel Eritrean Church London Choir Department for the period January 2024 to December 2024.

Throughout this period, the choir remained committed to its spiritual and communal duties. Our weekly gatherings took place every Tuesday, during which we engaged in choir practice, prayer sessions, and Bible studies, followed by a shared dinner to foster fellowship among members. Additionally, the choir continued to serve regularly during Sunday church services, leading worship and enhancing the spiritual life of the congregation through music.

No new members were recruited during this time, as we focused on strengthening the unity of our existing choir. In the spring, the choir participated in an outing fellowship outside London. This event provided an opportunity for collective worship and deeper bonding among members through our shared faith in Christ Jesus.

The choir remains an integral part of our church's ministry, uplifting congregants through devotion and service. Thank you.

## Children & Youth Ministry



## 1. Abbreviations

EBC - Eritrean Bethel Church

EBCM - Eritrean Bethel Children Ministry

EBYM - Eritrean Bethel Youth Ministry

## 2. Purpose

The EBC annual report serves the purpose of sharing with our congregation what God has done and is doing in our midst. We have seen God's faithful hand amongst the Children and Youth Ministry in 2024, and this report outlines what has occurred. This annual report also provides a synopsis of the activities of both Service Departments, including their structural organisation, key events, new programs and testimonies.

### 2.1. Organisational Structure

The EBC Children and Youth Ministry are two interconnected Service Departments of the Eritrean Bethel Church UK. As described in Article 11.1.3 of the constitution. Pastor Ghirmai Ghebru, appointed by the Board of Elders (see Article 11.2 of the constitution), serves as leader of the Children and Youth Ministry Department.

EBC Children & Youth Ministry comprises a leadership team detailed below:

### 2.2. Youth & Children Ministry Leadership:

- Pastor Ghirmai Ghebru
- Dawit Aregay
- Israel Haddish
- Teklit Gebrekirstos
- Shepherds (Young Leaders)

### **EBCM and EBYM Administration Department:**

EBC Children & Youth Ministry has a designated Administration Department. Cooperating and liaising with EBC Adult's Admin Department, EBC Children & Youth Admin Team plays a crucial role in ensuring the smooth and efficient operation of church's activities. This department is responsible for ensuring that children and youth programs run seamlessly. This includes annual calendar scheduling, managing facilities, and ensuring compliance with legal and organisational requirements. By managing the logistical and operational aspects of the children and youth ministry, the administration department enables the leadership to focus on spiritual guidance and ministry, ensuring that this ministry can effectively fulfil its mission to serve the congregation and the broader community.

In August 2024, the Children & Youth Administration Department expanded and restructured to improve the delegation of responsibilities. It now includes a new dedicated sub-team, Class Admins, that supports the Children's Ministry by handling class-related tasks such as documentation, registration, and classroom facilities. Additionally, Shepherds have taken on broader oversight roles, which include setting the annual calendar, overseeing programs and events, ensuring legal compliance, and preparing reports. This division of responsibilities allows the department to operate more efficiently and effectively.

### 2.3. Youth Ministry: Sub Departments

- Teaching Department
- Admin Department
- Media Team
- Youth Choir

### 2.4. Children Ministry: Sub Departments

- Teaching Department
- Children Choir
- Class Admins

## 3. Eritrean Bethel Church Children Ministry (EBCM)

*"Bethel Eritrean Church believes that children have a vital part to play within the body of Christ. They are not second-rate citizens in the kingdom of God. We believe God is raising a generation of excellence who will make a stand for him in our nation."*

EBC Website: Mission Statement

### Why a Children and Young Adults Ministry?

Bethel Eritrean Church aims to provide a holistic approach to nurturing our young people's spiritual, emotional, and social well-being within Biblical beliefs and values. As such, EBCM and EBYM run various classes, fellowship meetings, counselling sessions and annual retreats to help our young people grow in their faith, enrich their relationship with God, and develop a strong foundation for their spiritual journey.

### 3.1. EBCM Class Structure

We offer four distinct Sunday school classes, each carefully designed to suit the specific age groups of our children. These classes help them grow in wisdom and stature within their peer groups while being introduced to the Word of God. For the past 10 years, we have used the Light Compendium resources from Scripture Union, which provide weekly session materials that allow our children to explore the Bible, connect with Jesus, and grow in their faith. In 2024, we partnered with Scripture Union's Faith Guide Mission to enhance our ability to authentically disciple our children and youth. This partnership also supports the development of a comprehensive curriculum to ensure our Sunday school lessons are both engaging and dynamic.

- Bubbles: class for 3 - 5 years of age.
- Splash: class for years 2, 3 and 4.
- Xstream: class for years 5, 6 and 7.
- Grid: class for years 8, 9 and 10.

### 3.2. EBCM Activities & Regular Fellowships

EBCM holds regular day time activities for the children during half term. These activity days foster a sense of belonging and community among the children at our church, offering them a chance to learn about their faith in an interactive and age-appropriate manner. The activity days have varied, ranging from workshops hosted at church to day out activities- such as amusement parks and leisure centres. The main aim behind these half term activities is to provide occasions for the young children to come together, socialise and build friendships outside of regular Sunday service classes. Furthermore, family members are encouraged to attend and many volunteers to support its running. This has strengthened familial relationships as it is an occasion for families at church to spend quality time together, with their children, in a supportive and faith-based environment.

#### Half Term Activities:

EBCM organises three half term activity dates for Splash, Xstream and Grid classes. For calendar year (January – December), see details below:

- *Spring Term: Half term in mid-February.*
- *Summer Term: Half term in late May or early June*
- *Autumn Term: Half term in late October.*

Activity in National Science Museum:

In 2024 we have sought to expand the type of activities organised for the young children, including more educational outreach days. For instance, during the recent half term activity in February 2024 a few volunteers from the youth took children from both Xstream and Grid class to the National Science Museum located in South Kensington, London. This educational outing was designed to enhance the children's understanding and appreciation of science through interactive exhibits and hands-on activities.

Easter Special Activity:

Another highlight was our 2024 Splash & Xstream Easter Special. This event was a wonderful time of fellowship and spiritual enrichment for all who attended. We carefully designed age-appropriate activities for the different groups, ensuring that each participant could engage meaningfully. The Xstream class enjoyed a lively session of worship and painting, which allowed them to express their faith artistically. Meanwhile, the Splash group delved into arts and crafts, engaging in hands-on projects that reflected the Easter theme. We were also blessed by the support of the mothers in our congregation, who organised a delicious lunch for everyone, further fostering a sense of community and togetherness. After lunch, we gathered for a powerful message delivered by one of our Shepherds, which deeply resonated with all in attendance. The day also featured a thought-provoking panel discussion, on the topic 'Why is Easter Important?', where members of our Grid Sunday School Class shared their insights. This was followed by a time of worship, where we all came together in praise and reflection. The entire day was a truly blessed occasion, where families and younger children could come together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. It was a time of joy, learning, and spiritual growth, as we worshipped and glorified God together as one community.

Class Specific Fun Day Activities:

On August 28th, 2024, we hosted a special Bethel Fun Day for the children who attend the Xstream Sunday School class. The idea for this event originated from a member of Xstream, who suggested the theme of "Fellowship and Love." The purpose of the day was to demonstrate the love of God through fellowship and to help the children develop godly relationships with one another, emphasising the importance of these Christian values. The event featured a variety of activities, including five team-based games designed to encourage teamwork and friendship, a session on the Word of God, as well a time of prayer and worship. These activities provided an engaging way for the children to learn about God's love and the significance of fellowship in their spiritual journey. In addition to benefiting the children, the day also served as a valuable opportunity for members of the Youth to connect with the Xstream children. This interaction helped the Youth to build rapport

and develop a better understanding of how to communicate effectively with the younger members of our community. Overall, Bethel's class specific fun day was a joyful and spiritually enriching experience for everyone involved.

### **NEW Regular Fellowship Groups**

In 2024, our Children's Ministry has expanded to include regular fellowships for different groups, fostering the development of strong community bonds. The purpose of these fellowships is to strengthen relationships and provide support as we disciple our young children in their journey with the Lord Jesus. These gatherings are facilitated by Shepherds and involve volunteers from our Youth and Young Adults Ministry. Our fellowships have seen significant growth, with an increasing number of volunteers from our youth and young adult groups stepping forward to serve. This has not only enriched the activities but also provided these young individuals with the opportunity to grow in their faith and commitment to the Lord.

#### **Heirs of God Cell Group:**

In August 2024, we created a new fellowship cell group called "Heirs of God," specifically designed for younger children transitioning from our Grid Class into the Youth Ministry. These children are currently in Year 11, and we recognised a need for a smoother transition based on observations from previous years. In the past, we noticed that many from Grid would disengage from church life, potentially overwhelmed by the sudden jump into the Youth Ministry.

To address this challenge and ensure these children remain connected to our church community, we established the "Heirs of God" fellowship group. This group was created with the purpose of meeting every six weeks, providing a consistent and welcoming space for these young people as they navigate this transition. The fellowship is made up of the transitioning Year 11 student, a consistent group of Shepherds who provide guidance and support, and a rotating selection of saints from the Youth and Young Adult Ministries who join us for each meeting.

What makes "Heirs of God" unique is that it is youth-led. Each session is facilitated by pairs of the young people themselves, fostering leadership skills and encouraging active participation in their spiritual journey. This approach not only empowers them but also helps them build stronger relationships with their peers and the wider church community.

We are excited to witness how the Lord will work through this fellowship, "Heirs of God" is not just a group; it is a vital part of ensuring that these children know they belong and are an integral part of our church family as they grow in their faith.

### **Weekly Grid Bible Study:**

The Grid Bible Study program began after our first Grid Youth trip in August 2023. Recognizing the need for regular fellowship to strengthen the faith of our Grid Class, the decision was made to establish a weekly Bible study. This initiative also provides a valuable opportunity for our youth leaders and Pastor Ghirmai to build up the saints, share the Word, and encourage our next generation. We launched the weekly Bible study, which takes place every Thursday at 6 PM. Currently, we have around 15-20% of the total class attending regularly. Over the past 13 months, the attendees have expressed their enjoyment and appreciation for the fellowship and teachings provided. The online format has been particularly beneficial, allowing all participants to join without the limitations of late travel or distance from the church. The classes have covered a wide range of topics, including the gospel, identity, relationships, education, and more. This variety has contributed to a rich and engaging learning experience. The Bible study group is predominantly comprised of girls, and we see an opportunity to encourage more boys to become regular attendees. In August 2024 we celebrated the one-year anniversary of Grid's Bible Study to honour the children's dedication and consistent attendance. The event featured food, drinks, and a time for fellowship, marking a milestone in the ongoing growth and commitment of our young people.

### **Annual Young Teens Conference:**

In July 2023, we started an annual retreat for our young teens in Grid (Year 8 to Year 10). After the incredible and transformative experience in 2023, we continued the tradition in July 2024, taking our youth from the church to Kingswood. This year the Grid trip took place between Friday the 26th of July to Sunday the 28th of July 2024, and the theme and purpose of the weekend was Rise Up. There were 28 kids overall (aged between 11-16), and 4 youth, who were the leaders of the trip (aged between 19-26). The venue was Kingswood, and it was in Kent. The weekend was filled with activities, worship, prayer and teaching. We had communal worship and prayer in our conference room. Alongside teachings from the leaders, a group discussion with presentations as well as the sharing of testimonies, from both the young people and the leaders. The impact of the weekend was seen in an altar call on the last day, where many of the kids came forward in surrender, and received prayer. The activities included archery, zip line, the big swing, the trapeze, laser tag, and team building. We had a campfire on the last night filled with fellowship, where we danced into the evening worshipping the Lord with songs of praise. The weekend was a very blessed time where the children could form new connections, strengthen their unity and worship the Lord.

### **3.3. EBCM Updates & Changes**

The Eritrean Bethel Church Children's Ministry has undergone many exciting updates and changes since January 2024. These include a new organisational structure, the addition of a new group of teachers, and the introduction of a fresh curriculum.

#### **New Cohort of Teachers:**

EBCM has grown and expanded with the addition of six new teachers from our youth, who have joined the Children's Ministry as teachers. They will be teaching in our Splashes, Xstream, and Grid classes. These young teachers will undergo a training period from September 2024 to December 2024, with the goal of becoming main class teachers starting in January 2025. This marks an exciting transition for EBCM, as we witness the remarkable journey of our young people, moving from being disciples themselves to now guiding and discipling the next generation.

#### **New Classroom Admins:**

In 2024, the EBCM introduced a new organizational structure that includes the role of classroom administrators. These administrators are volunteers selected from our youth and are responsible for managing various administrative tasks within the classes, such as handling documentation, registrations, and classroom resources. They work closely with classroom leaders to address any administrative issues that arise, ensuring the smooth operation of each class. This new structure enhances the efficiency of our Children's Ministry and empowers our young people with leadership and organisational responsibilities.

#### **New Curriculum:**

Starting in September 2024, EBCM will be implementing a new curriculum called the Mosaic Series from Scripture Union. This curriculum offers a fresh and engaging approach to biblical teaching, designed to captivate and inspire our children. The Mosaic Series features dynamic sessions that encourage active participation and deeper understanding of the Bible. This change reflects our commitment to providing a vibrant and enriching learning experience for our children as they grow in their faith.

## **4. Eritrean Bethel Church Youth Ministry (EBYM)**

EBC Youth Ministry (16+) has grown massively in 2024, with saints from all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds. We have witnessed a revival in this ministry with souls saved, lives transformed, and countless testimonies of God's goodness at work in individual lives. We thank God for the committed ministers who, emboldened by faith, serve our youth and young adults wholeheartedly, contributing to the congregation's spiritual growth and overall well-being.

#### 4.1. Teaching Department

EBYM teaching department, exists to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and from by the waves and carried about by every wind of worldly ideologies, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. (Ephesians 4:12-14).

We aspire to achieve these through teaching and preaching the Scripture, which is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). We believe the Scripture is not merely a body of truth, but the very power of God which bears holistic change for a person who encounters it. We, therefore, aspire and work to train and raise young leaders who can carry out the divine imperative to grow both in quality and quantity.

EBYM provides several morning classes alongside the Sunday afternoon English service, with rigorous teaching that allows individuals to grow deeper in their understanding and faith. Our morning classes are divided into three (detailed below), tailored to the spiritual maturity of its attendees.

##### ➤ **EBYM Classes**

###### **Shepherds (10:00 AM - 11:25 AM):**

This group is made up of selected leaders from the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, established in November 2019. The ministry was created with the purpose of training and developing young leaders who can fulfil God's divine mandate. Specifically, it aims to raise leaders grounded in biblical truth, with strong convictions and a heart for God, who can effectively impact their generation for the glory of Jesus Christ. All these leaders, known as shepherds, are now actively involved in teaching and leading within EBCM.

###### **Discipleship (11:25 AM - 12:25 PM):**

As per baptismal teaching, that is, teaching on growing up in salvation (1 Pet 2: 2). The focus of this class is to show the sufficiency of the atonement of Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind, the doctrine of the Fall and of the Cross.

###### **Glory to Glory (12: 25 PM - 1:25 PM):**

This class is designed for those who have already been baptised, helping them to understand that the purpose of both original creation and re-creation is to glorify God

and participate in His glory. The central theme of the teaching is that to be fully alive as a human being means to be empowered by the Spirit of God to glorify Him. We believe that the essence of human life is found in the adoration of God and in loving others as we love ourselves.

Our guiding scriptures are:

- “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- “For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.” (Hebrews 2:10)

#### **Sunday English Service (2:30 PM - 5:30 PM):**

Every Sunday we have topical teachings, discussion, prayer, and worship in our main congregation. Our weekly service is in English, and it is open to all youth and young adults.

### **4.2. Weekly Fellowship**

Outside of the regular Sunday programme, which includes tailored morning classes and an afternoon Sunday English Service for the entire congregation, we have fellowships during the week. These fellowships are:

#### **4.2.1. Prayer & Worship**

The weekly Prayer & Worship Service at EBYM (opening hours Wednesday 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM) offers a space for saints to pray for themselves and one another, promoting a sense of belonging and community. Sparked by a recognised need for more gatherings for the upbuilding of the youth and young adults through prayer and worship and the sharing of the Word of God; it was decided that prayer meetings would take place weekly (Hebrews 10:25).

These meetings were founded in August 2022 and are held in English. It is an opportunity for believers to unite and reinforce their biblical beliefs, values, and convictions as they ‘...pray for one another...’ (James 5:16) and ‘carry each other’s burdens...’ (Galatians 6:2). This weekly prayer and worship service creates a bond that goes beyond mere social interactions as it is chance to share experiences, support one another, and strengthen relationships. Youth and young adults are encouraged to attend as freedom and enjoyment are found in worshipping the

Lord (Psalm 100:4). These meetings are an opportunity to be led by the Holy Spirit and learn what He sees as true prayer and worship (John 14:26, John 16:13).

We have received the following feedback from one of our attendees:

*"I think it's been really helpful for me having a check in throughout the week in the form of Wednesdays [prayer and worship meetings]. I think for me that has helped me to be really grounded. And also, I think this coming together and having a chance to come intentionally to a time solely dedicated to prayer is extremely beneficial, especially in communal prayer which isn't as common in the Church, and it gives a good time of reflecting and quiet time with God in the middle of a busy week."*

#### **4.2.2. Bible Study**

The weekly Bible Studies at EBYM (opening hours Friday 6:30pm to 9:00pm) is a focused and structured way for individuals to deepen their understanding of Scripture and their faith. The purpose of the bible study is to dig deeper into God's word, looking beyond the surface of biblical texts and creating a space where we can discuss our thoughts and share the life of the word with one another.

The usual bible study programme runs as such: prayer, sharing the word (either by the youth pastor or one of the youth members), discussion followed by prayer and worship.

In 2024 we started to read the gospel of John. The youth pastor and a member of the youth would lead the sessions, and there would be discussions on the passages of scripture that we are focusing on. However, we then moved to appoint two people within the youth to lead the sessions so that everyone would have the opportunity to share what they have meditated on. Primarily this has helped us in getting to know Christ more and imitating Him through that knowledge, which has developed our spiritual lives. It has also helped in building confidence in others to share and speak, who normally wouldn't do so, which is one of the things our youth struggles with. Every couple of months, we take one of the Fridays to pause on our normal bible studies and spend time in intentional prayer and worship, where we collectively pray for one another, the church and the world.

#### **4.2.3. EBYM Fellowship Activities**

Our Youth Ministry offers a wide range of regular events and activities beyond our weekly fellowships. These are organized by shepherds and members from the

Youth and Young Adults groups, and they vary in nature. The purpose of these activities is to strengthen our community bonds, foster love and unity, and support one another as we strive to glorify Jesus and grow in love for one another.

### **2024 Events & Programmes**

#### **Worship & Paint:**

Worship and Paint, in February 2024, was an event held to fundraise for the International Conference that was held in the Summer of 2024. The evening allowed the youth to participate in an artistic activity, giving them an opportunity to showcase their creativity whilst spending their time singing praises. It was an amazing way to discover the hidden artists amongst our Kingdom. The theme of the Worship & Paint was linked to the topic of our teachings for the past couple of months- Righteousness. All participants were instructed to paint how they would envision righteousness. There were varying interpretations which was a pleasure to see. This was a night that allowed the youth to strengthen in fellowship and grow an intimate bond with one another.

#### **Annual Youth Retreat:**

A key event in the Youth Ministry is our much-anticipated annual retreat to Wales. It serves as a focused and intentional period of time in which our church community temporarily withdraws from the hustle and bustle of everyday life to focus on their spiritual journey. Through intentional worship, prayer, meditation, and reflection, saints experience a deepening of their faith as they take a break from the distractions of everyday life. This year, from Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August to Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, 79 of our Youth and 2 leaders stayed at Llanelli, Wales. Our ages ranged from 16 to 28 for the Youth. We had organised events such as prayer, worship, teachings, team building games, a hike, BBQ and morning walks. Many people reported enjoying prayer, being less distracted and benefitted from the lessons. Many people visited Wales for the first time this year, and we all spent considerably more time outside than other years. This year the majority reported a peaceful atmosphere conducive to natural fellowship and growing in sincerity before the Lord in true worship. Spending this extended time together has encouraged more meaningful conversations and the development of stronger relationships within the church community.

#### **International Youth Conference:**

This year, from Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of August to Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2024, our Youth Ministry hosted its very first International Conference, titled "The Work of The Holy Spirit." This was a significant milestone for us, as it marked the beginning of what we

hope will be a series of annual gatherings that unite believers from around the world. By God's grace, we plan to continue hosting these conferences in the years to come, creating opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship. The International Conference, titled 'The Work of The Holy Spirit,' united believers from countries like Norway, Holland, Sweden, Austria, Germany, the USA, and numerous UK churches. On the Friday, featured Pastor Nahom Zenawi's deep session on being 'Addicted to Jesus', touching many of the attendees. Additionally, Kebreab Yemesgen, a US-based Christian Psychologist, addressed the importance of mental health in the 'Social Media Generation,' shedding light on a crucial topic. The Shepherds of the youth also took lead in segments of the conference, seen and behind the scenes such as leading prayer, leading worship, the panel discussion, the media, admin work, food preparation, creating an usher's team and tithing collection - training and preparing them for Bethel Youth takeover. With a full church of around 250 young adults and youth, the conference was successful, with participants eagerly anticipating another international gathering next year. The positive feedback and enthusiasm from all the saints highlighted the impact of the conference.

## **5. Baptism Service**

In July 2023, we held a Baptism Service for the youth, during which fourteen individuals were baptised. We thank God for each one of them, as they made a public profession of their faith in Christ Jesus. This sacred act symbolised their decision to die to sin, in accordance with Romans 6:11, as they were submerged in the water, and to be raised to a brand-new life, as described in (Colossians 2:12), as they emerged from the water. Before the baptisms took place, these individuals had the opportunity to share their powerful testimonies. It was a joyous and remarkable moment, filled with countless stories of God's saving power and grace. The atmosphere was charged with faith and gratitude as each testimony highlighted the transformative work of Christ in their lives. At the end of the baptism service, the church community gathered to pray over the newly baptised saints, asking for God's guidance, strength, and empowerment as they continue their journey of faith. Following the service, we shared a time of celebration, rejoicing together as a congregation over the decision these individuals made to fully commit their lives to Christ.

As we reflect on this special day, we are filled with anticipation and gratitude for the upcoming baptism service this Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2024, where even more young people will be getting baptised! We are ready and excited to witness God continue to move in the lives of our youth, bringing them into a deeper relationship with Him.

## 6. Community Engagement

In 2024 EBC Children & Youth Ministry has concentrated on enhancing community engagement, both within the church and beyond, to reflect Christ's love in practical ways. Our efforts include evangelism outreach to share the Gospel and invite others into a relationship with Jesus, alongside in-house workshops that provide resources and training. This year, we've also introduced a new leadership training program designed to equip our young leaders with the skills to lead and serve effectively. Through these initiatives and our expanded social media engagement, we aim to build a supportive community that empowers young people to realise their God-given potential and live out their faith daily.

### Leadership Training:

EBYM Leadership is currently developing a training program for the Shepherds. The goal of this course is to equip young leaders with a deep understanding of the nature and dynamics of God's community and to prepare them to serve effectively within it.

Time frame: This course will take at least six months to complete depending on the engagement of the class

Delivery: We will use seminar style teaching with course work and group discussion

### Outline:

- The founder and the foundation of the community
- The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Community
- The district feature of the Community of God
- Functioning as leaders in the community of God

### Evangelism Outreach:

On Sunday, August 4th, Bethel Youth embarked on our first-ever evangelism outreach, spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ across various parts of North London. This marked the beginning of a new chapter for us as a youth, and we are committed to making evangelism a continuous part of our mission moving forward. We divided into teams and went out to share the good news in the streets of Wood Green, Turnpike Lane, and Finsbury Park. Our primary goal was to proclaim the message that Jesus Christ is for everyone regardless of past actions, history, or background. We wanted to make it clear that no one is exempt from receiving His love and salvation. JESUS CHRIST IS FOR EVERYONE. Additionally, we invited people to the conference we held the following week, where the teachings and the power of the Holy Spirit was powerfully displayed. The event was a tremendous success, as many attendees were moved to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. For

others, it sparked an interest, and for many more, it planted a seed in their hearts. This experience has inspired us, and we are eager to continue with our evangelism efforts. By God's power, mercy, and grace, we believe we will be used as vessels to bring people out of darkness and into His marvellous light. We look forward to our next evangelism session and the many more that will follow.

#### **Empowering Futures Series:**

The "Empowering Futures Series" is a new church initiative currently being developed rooted in our faith and love for God's people, dedicated to empowering the youth in our community. This program will feature a series of regular workshops designed to equip young people aged 14-24 with the skills needed for academic success and informed career choices. Believing that everyone is uniquely gifted by God, our goal is to nurture these gifts through practical and impactful learning experiences. Our workshops will cover key topics such as career exploration, study skills, CV and cover letter writing, and university personal statement guidance. To enhance the quality and reach of these sessions, we have partnered with charitable organisations within Haringey Council including The Prince's Trust, Haringey Shed, Youth Employment UK and The Community Hub who will support the development and delivery of these workshops. These partnerships bring valuable expertise and resources, ensuring that our youth receive the best possible guidance and support. This initiative is not only a reflection of our church's mission to serve others with compassion and faith but also a means to make a lasting impact on the broader community. By empowering young people with the tools, they need to succeed, we aim to help them realise their God-given potentials.

#### **Social Media Engagement:**

Our Instagram page, @bethelyouthuk, was launched in July 2024 as a new initiative to engage with our Youth and Young Adults community. The launch was marked by sharing highlights of our fellowship and extending an invitation to our first International Conference. Moving forward, our goal is to maintain consistent posting, featuring content that not only reflects the fellowship and love within our group but also encourages spiritual growth by sharing biblical knowledge, words of encouragement, and insights that lead people closer to Christ.

Currently, the page has gained over 200 followers, with the invitation clip for our International Conference receiving 6,400 views. This is just the beginning, as we intend to use this platform to spread the love, knowledge, and abundant life found in Christ, while showcasing the work God is doing among Bethel Youth and Young Adults in an engaging and visually compelling manner.

The page has been managed with care and organisation. Content creation and posting have been led by our Shepherds, with all media captured on professional cameras by designated team members that include members of our Youth Ministry. Recently, an additional Shepherd has been given access to contribute to the page. Posts are subject to review and approval by leadership, ensuring that the page is in alignment with our church's values.

## **7. Conclusion:**

As we reflect on 2024, we are grateful for the growth, unity, and spiritual development within our Children & Youth Ministry. Through the dedication of our leaders, the enthusiasm of our youth, and the unwavering support of our church community, we have seen God's hand at work in powerful ways.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to these efforts—parents, volunteers, and church members—your prayers, time, and resources have been invaluable.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this foundation, continuing to nurture our young people in their faith, equipping them with the tools they need to lead and serve, and expanding our reach to impact more lives for Christ.

## **Evangelism and Discipleship department:**

The yearly report for the Evangelism and Discipleship department covering the period from January to December 2024.

Throughout this year, our department successfully baptized eleven new believers, who have embraced the teachings of salvation and redemption through Christ.

After completing the essential salvation classes, these individuals participated in a three-month discipleship program. Following their successful completion of this program, they have transitioned into the service and stewardship class.

In addition to the baptisms, our department has consistently engaged in outreach and evangelism efforts each month, by sending groups of people from the department and the wider congregation to the North London area as well as other parts of the city. We have also maintained our weekly Friday prayer meetings, fostering a strong sense of community and spiritual growth.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees are aware of the requirements of the charity to have a Reserve policy and aim to maintain a target balance of three months operation costs at any time to ensure on going delivery of its charitable objectives.

### **Principal Funding**

This is provided mainly through voluntary tithes and offerings by members and through gifts aid scheme. Pledges are also taken for specific projects whenever needed.

### **Financial Review**

Eritrean Beth-el Church London had incoming resources of £324,167 as shown on the statement of financial activities. Resources expended in undertaking its charitable activities amounted to £210,586 resulting in a surplus of £113,581. All the church assets are held for the furtherance of its objectives.

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees in determining how best to pursue these objectives, have taken on board guidance from Charity Commission in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011, including the guidance on the Advancement of Religion for public benefit.

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally accepted Accounting Practice.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust of the deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently
- observe the method and principles in the Charity SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the basis of current concerns unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at any time and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



.....  
Nataniel Yemane

Date: .....17/08/25.....

I report on the account of Eritrean Beth-el Church in London for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 2 to 34.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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 REPORT**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - To keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charity Act.
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, 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.



.....  
**Independent examiner**

Tsega Ateweberhan

1 Henderson Drive, DA1 5LE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		£	£
Incoming Resources from charitable activities:	3	222,791	180,257
Activities for generating funds	2	5,143	4,556
Other incoming resources	4	96,233	76,155
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>324,167</b>	<b>260,069</b>
<b>EXPENDED RESOURCES</b>			
Charitable activities	5	210,586	203,755
<b>Total resource expended</b>		<b>210,586</b>	<b>203,755</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing)resources for the year/ Net income / (expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>113,581</b>	<b>57,214</b>
Total funds brought forward		953,266	896,052
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,066,847</b>	<b>953,266</b>

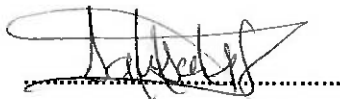
The statements of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate stamen of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

**BALANCE SHEET**

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	8		757,207		777,856
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		479,398		379,432	
Prepayment		3,281		161	
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
amounts fallings due within one year					
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>482,679</u>		<u>379,593</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSET LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
			1,239,885		1,157,449
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7		<u>-173,038</u>		<u>-204,183</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			1,066,847		953,266
<b>FUNDS</b>					
General Purpose Fund			<u>1,066,847</u>		<u>953,266</u>

The Financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees on 9th of June 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Samson Amanuel Menghistu

The notes from Page 31 to 34 forms part of these financial statements

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), The Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

#### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the amounts are realised and can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Church collections and gifts to the church are recognised as income when received.

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when on receipts.

#### **Tax reclaims on donations and gifts**

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA on accruals basis.

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the Church or the amount realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distribution by the Church.

#### **Donated services**

The Charity does not quantify and include services provided by the volunteers in the financial statement as the costs of collecting such data is considered to be more than any benefit to the charity. The value of the voluntary help is however described in the trustees, annual report.

#### **Investment income, gains and losses**

Investment income is included in the financial statements when received. Gains and losses on sale of investments or resulting from revaluation of investments are determined at point of disposal or revaluation. Gains or losses arising at the point of revaluation are not included in the accounts

### Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to headings they have been allocated to activities on basis consistent with the use of resources.

### Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property (Building)-2% straight line basis.

Musical instruments and office equipment - 25% reducing balance basis.

## 2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUND

	2024	2023
	£	£
Building Fund	0	0
Fund raising Sales	5,143	4,556
	<u>5,143</u>	<u>4,556</u>

## 3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Tithes and Offerings	198,591	162,509
Tax reclaimed on Gift Aids	24,200	17,749
	<u>222,791</u>	<u>180,257</u>

## 4. OTHER INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Rent	8,230	3,890
Deposit Interest	5,013	2,401
Refund	625	101
Contribution	29,569	11,458
Gift		
Grant	2,000	4,974
Tuition Fee		
	<u>50,797</u>	<u>53,331</u>
	<u>96,233</u>	<u>76,155</u>

**5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Payment for the Ministers	69,602	59,940
PAYE and NI	8,273	7,277
Pension	3,521	2,512
Office Materials	4,487	1,842
Insurance	2,278	3,528
Donation & Gifts	6,822	23,832
Bible, Cassettes, News Papers etc.	3,770	8,417
Travel & Subsistence	16,176	7,853
Telephone, Gas & Electricity	8,154	4,383
Rent	1,831	2,239
Conference & Training	15,946	11,111
Catering & Refreshment	7,644	4,067
Printing, Stationery, Photocopy,		
Postage	2,635	1,361
Bank Charges	512	2,580
Premises Expense	8,872	8,930
Professional Fee	6,414	1,912
Membership Fee	2,009	1,353
Mortgage Payment	16,022	17,253
Repair/Maintenance of Property	786	7,217
Depreciation	24,831	26,149
	<u>210,586</u>	<u>203,755</u>

**6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

During the year and in the previous years, no Trustee received remuneration, benefit in kind or had reimbursement of expenses.

**7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Bank Loan	<u>173,038</u>	<u>203,183</u>

The Bank loan is a commercial mortgage secured by charges on Eritrean Beth-el Church in London's premises at Unit 1 and 2 OSKA Building, Empress Works, Boreham Road, N22 6SL.

**8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

<b>Cost</b>	<b>Office Equipment &amp; Musical Instrument</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Total</b>
At 01/01/2024	141,393	1,010,181	1,151,574
Additions	4,182		4,182
Disposal			0
<b>1</b>	<b>145,575</b>	<b>1,010,181</b>	<b>1,155,756</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 01/01/2024	123,232	250,486	373,718
Additions	4,627	20,204	24,831
Disposal			0
<b>At 31/12/2024</b>	<b>127,860</b>	<b>270,690</b>	<b>398,549</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 01/01/2024	22,806	800,102	822,908
<b>At 31/12/2024</b>	<b>17,716</b>	<b>739,491</b>	<b>757,207</b>

**ERITREAN BETH-EL CHURCH IN LONDON**

England & Wales - Charity number 1083084

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# Accounts

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**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
of  
Eritrean Beth-El Church in London  
Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2023**

Charity Number: 1083084

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## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Registered Charity Number**                      1083084

**Registered Office**                                      Units 1 and 2 OSKA Building  
Empress Works  
Boreham Road  
N22 6SL

<b>Board of Trustees</b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Role</u></b>
	Nataniel Yemane	Chair
	Dr Mesghina Abraha	Secretary
	Samson Amanuel Menghistu	Treasurer
	Goitom Sium Mebrahtu	Trustee
	Goitom Gulay	Trustee
	Asheber Tesfay	Trustee
	Biniam Bereket	Trustee
	Mussie Habte	Trustee
	Teklit Gebrekirstos	Trustee
	Daneil Weldy	Trustee
	Dawit Araya	Trustee

**Bankers**    Barclays Bank  
Brixton Branch  
463-465 Brixton Road  
London, SW9 8HL

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The Trustees present their report with financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Eritrean Beth-el Church in London is a Church and a Charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The management of the church is the responsibility of the Trustees who are appointed on a permanent basis. The Trustees meet on quarterly basis. The day-to-day management including the implementation of strategies approved by the Trustees is delegated to the Elders Board, whose members are elected by the members of the church on Five years interval. There are 4 part-time pastors, and 1 part-time office admin employed by the church.

### **TRUSTEES' INDUCTION AND TRAINING**

New Trustees are trained by a delegate of the chair using the charity commission guidance paper. Existing Trustees attend training from time to time to keep up to date with the latest requirements and best practice. In addition, informal learning continues to take place on an on-going basis.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees have the duty to identify and review the risk to which the church is exposed to and ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide a reasonable assurance against the identified risks. The Trustees have assessed all the major risks that may affect the operation of the church in the foreseeable future and are satisfied that there are systems in place to manage the exposure to them.

### **FREEHOLD PROPERTY**

The Trustees act as custodian (registered owners) of Eritrean Beth-el Church in London main freehold property which is used as its place of worship (Unit 1 and 2 OSKA Building, empress work, Boreham Road, Turnpike Lane, London N22 6SL) and (Sterling Road, Wood Green, N22 5BT) which is currently rented to another church as a place of worship.

## **OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

1. To advance religion among the Eritrean Community in United Kingdom by proclaiming the gospel of Lord Jesus Christ in their mother tongue.
2. To advance the education of the Eritrean Community in the United Kingdom in all matters relating to their indigenous and British culture and way of life.
3. To provide advice, information and practical assistance to those members of the Eritrean Community who are in need of such service.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

During 2023 The church operated its work and all services from its main church at Boreham Road in Turnpike lane wood green N22 (Sunday services and mid-week service), this building is also used as the base for small group prayer, bible study, support, advise, counselling and other small to medium size meetings. The board of Elders consists of 11 people with four of the leaders being paid a part time salary, three of them working for 16 hours and one 21 hours a week.

The board of Elders works closely with the church trustees, the church Deacons and the wider church membership.

EBC is a member of Alliance of Eritrean churches in the United Kingdom and continues to work in partnership with all churches and carry out its outreach work within the United Kingdom

## **PRAYER GROUP**

The prayer teams are the backbone of the church and are very dedicated to prayer and they partner with the Holy Spirit to release the love and power of God to those in need. There are regular prayer sessions via Zoom and in person.

The Prayer session via Zoom is, Monday to Friday, every morning from 5am to 7am and evening from 8p to 10pm. Also prayer at individuals request during the Zoom prayer sessions or pre-booked one to one prayer via Zoom. The prayer sessions in person are held at the church premises, Boreham Road, N22 6SL.

Every Monday from 7pm to 9pm, in the pastor's office Also a monthly prayer and fasting on the second Saturday of each month from 11:30am to 4:00pm followed by fellowship and refreshment time together until 6pm. Moreover in year 2023, two 21 days prayer and fasting were organize and held in the month of March, which carried on to April and the second one in

October. Many more prayers at individuals request during the Sunday services or at their home address or in hospitals.

The prayer team are always passionately praying for the Youth and children and families in our church, for the gospel to be preached and for the salvations of new souls, for our people in Eritrea and for the healing of the land, for the people who are in prisons, for the sick and weak souls and many more.

Due to the current conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, the prayer team also pray passionately and intercede for peace in Eritrea and Ethiopian and all other nations in similar situation. The prayer team regular hold meetings to evaluate the progress and the prayer demand and had virtual fellowships via Zoom and in person at a restaurant. The goal of this team is to help equip and keep the church members praying faithfully and effectively on an ongoing basis.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

Bible study sessions are one of the best place for people to grow spiritual and develop their knowledge in the word of God [Bible]. Therefore the Bible Study leaders always encourage everyone to participate in the discussion, ask questions, lead in prayer and share the word of God from the provided Bible Study material. However sometimes members might shy away from volunteering, due to their levels of knowledge in the word of God and the luck of participation forces the Bible Study teachers to teach by themselves, while helping and encourage the Bible Study members to grew in confidence and be able to participate in the discussion, to lead in prayer and share the word of God. Bible Study is the best way to shepherd and to fellowship.

The Bible Studies are held at individual's homes. Currently there are ten active Bible Study groups in all areas of London, UK, with 21 leaders & teachers. This year's, Bible Study material is THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, this material help guide the Bible Study teachers and also keep the church members spiritually harmonised. The material has been sectioned in parts and the first part that was studied is THE GOSPEL OF JOHN PART ONE (CHAPTERS 1 - 12), followed by part two of the book.

As a church procedure once the material was prepared and drafted as a book, the Bible Study leaders & teachers met to read and discussed the material in details. Then it was presented to the church Elders, Deacons and the Bible Study leaders for censor, before it was sent for print. Once approved it was printed and distributed to the church members.

In each of the Bible Study the number of attendees vary and approximately six to twelve members attend in a session. Members are always being encouraged to join the Bible Study groups and new people have joined at the beginning of this year.

Out of the ten Bible Study groups, seven are conducted virtually via Zoom so member can attend from the comfort of their home and the remaining three are in person, members of the group gather at individual's home.

The church leaders and the Bible Study leaders always encourage members to organised special occasions, to fellowship together. Most of the Bible Study groups go out every Christmas for dinner and fellowship, either in December or in January of the New Year, depending on their arrangement. Also members are always encouraged to support each other during Weddings, visiting during childbirth or celebrating birthday, bereavements and many more. The goal of this team is to help equip and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **DEPARTMENT OF MISSIONS**

Bethel Church has had a Department for Missions since 2002. The church leadership believed that Bethel should be at the forefront of God's work of salvation through missions. To this end, various practical measures were taken to facilitate its vision. The Department has been sending short-term missionaries to the Horn of Africa for two decades. These include countries such as Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Djibouti.

The short-term mission teams have been engaged in evangelistic campaigns involving several local churches in Khartoum as well as in Ethiopia during 2003. During the evangelistic campaign, the appropriate trainings were given to members of the churches to do personal evangelistic work prior to the main campaign week. Others were provided with appropriate trainings so that they might help the newly converted people. Evangelistic literature has been prepared and distributed in the targeted area.

Bethel Church believes that it has a divine mandate to address not only people's spiritual needs, but also its material needs. Therefore, the church has had a feeding program to the desperate people, especially those in Sudan. This particular scheme has helped hundreds of people with food, clothing and other essential materials. The recipients of the love gift provided by the church were grateful, and many of them saw God's love in action and responded to the evangelistic message positively.

The evangelistic outreaches in the Horn of Africa, and especially in Sudan were aimed at two national groups; these were mainly Ethiopians, Eritreans refugees residing in Khartoum. The churches in Khartoum were convinced that unity is of utmost importance, especially if evangelism and mission work is to be carried out successfully. And by God's sheer grace and mercy the work of mission has had a greater impact in the capital Khartoum. Many people, who previously were indifferent to the Gospel message, responded positively once they saw God's healing power and the ministry of exorcism. It is estimated that during the ten years period from

2004 to 2014 an estimated 2000 people have come forward to receive Jesus as their saviour, and a great majority of them were baptized in water.

Bethel church's mission among the Eritrean refugees in Northern Ethiopia had made a significant impact. Unlike in Sudan however, here a different approach was used to carry out the missional mandate. The reason behind implementing a new approach was because of the delicate security situation around the camps. In addition, some of the Eritrean Orthodox church leaders in the camps opposed the evangelistic campaigns. Therefore, the mission's team from Bethel and the local evangelical churches devised a new approach. Instead of holding mass evangelistic meetings, they used small group evangelistic programs. Moreover, the charity work to help the needy refugees had a prominent role in opening a relationship with the locals. This new approach opened a greater door of opportunity for the Gospel work.

In addition, the Mission Team gave counselling to the bereaved and traumatized. As a result, many testified that these therapeutic provisions have helped them.

In the year 2023 no evangelistic related activities were carried out. This was due to the fact that the security situation in Sudan and Ethiopia was not conducive to carry out such activities. As the security situation in the Horn of Africa improves, we will resume the evangelistic and relief activities in the region.

## **BETHEL BIBLE COLLEGE**

Bethel Bible College sessions have the aim of supporting students within the Eritrean community in their education. The sessions are conducted both face to face and distance learning modes. For distance learning mode synchronous learning with live video streaming via Zoom, are streamed to students across the World. Streamed video lessons are also loaded into Moodle Learning Management System for LMS for asynchronous learning, making the delivery of the content more flexible for students that cannot attend face-to-face sessions or the live video streaming, for many different reasons including time restrictions. The lessons sessions are mainly conducted via Zoom with live video streaming, also delivered Face-to-Face to students, in branches including Addis Ababa Ethiopia, Juba & Kassala in Sudan, Jeddah & Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, Edmonton in Canada, Australia and Boston & Nashville in USA. During this period ten bible theology courses to each classes including Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Bachelor's Degree and a Tigrigna Language Grammar courses are given.

The programme started with 27 students for the first time as pilot Face-to-Face project commencing January 2017 till December 2017. In 2018 the number of students increased to 58 who completed the courses successfully with 33 Face-to-Face from local churches in London as well as 28 online distance and graduated at certificate level. In year 2019, the college extend the courses to diploma level and enrolled students from all over the world including Europe, Canada,

America, Australia, Africa and Israel, energised by the good previous student's engagements and the successful delivery of the online streaming of the lessons. Every year most of the certificate students continue their studies into the Diploma courses. In year 2021 the college also introduced a new course in Advanced Diploma level.

In year 2022 the college successfully delivered all lessons in three of the levels Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma, and celebrated graduation ceremony in all of the countries, including London, UK, Germany, Denmark, Juba & Kassala, Sudan, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and Edmonton, Canada and Houston Texas, USA.

In year 2023 the college successfully delivered all lessons in three of the levels Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Bachelor's Degree. Gain this year celebrated graduation ceremony in all the countries, including Europe in Denmark, Africa in Juba, Sudan and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Jeddah & Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and Edmonton, Canada and Boston & Nashville, USA. This year no graduation ceremony was held in UK, as the students from UK was encouraged to travel to Europe and they graduated in Denmark.

In 2023 the following number of students completed their lessons and attended graduation ceremony.

- Certificate Level 115 Students
- Diploma Level 70 Students
- Advanced Diploma 21 Students

In total 196 students successfully completed their lessons and attended graduation ceremony. The BA class is a two year program therefore the students will graduate in year 2024, once they complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> year class.

A long-term plan is to expand the programme to reach more members of the community, especially people in disadvantaged areas such as those who cannot access to a theology course in the places they reside including refugees.

## **BETHEL MEDIA MINISTRY**

**Mission:** The primary mission of Bethel Eritrea Church is to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ. In today's digital age, there are numerous channels available for spreading this message to people worldwide. Bethel Church recognizes the importance of utilizing media technologies to reach a broader audience.

Traditional media models have undergone significant changes due to shifting consumption patterns. As a result, Bethel Church embraces a hybrid media model that emphasizes emerging

platforms like the Internet and mobile technologies. One such platform is YouTube, the leading video sharing website. Bethel Church has its own YouTube channel, which serves as a platform for sharing content. With over 100 million monthly users on YouTube, it provides a substantial congregation to engage with.

The content uploaded on the Bethel Church YouTube channel receives various comments, not all of which are positive. However, it is encouraging to know that the messages are being viewed by those who often need to hear them the most.

This ministry not only supports the technical aspects of our worship, including the choir, but also records various events, teachings, and sermons. These recordings are made available online through our YouTube channel and Facebook Page, allowing for live streaming and on-demand access for individuals to engage with the content. Therefore, the media team arrange a training day to equip and empower the team in all aspects of the technical media equipment's, including the recording material and audio visual equipment. So that they would be able to produce a professional materials to be shared on the social media plat forms of the church.

**Sunday Worship:** Our church, like many others, has embraced online services. We have expanded our worship experience by utilizing platforms such as YouTube Live, Facebook, Instagram and website. This allows us to connect with individuals who are unable to attend Sunday Worship in person. Our live video streams are accessible on our Facebook Page and YouTube Channel every Sunday at 10:30 am.

**Prayer Group:** We have established Prayer Services on Zoom and Conference Call Dialup, available every morning and evening throughout the week. This provides a convenient platform for communal prayer and allows individuals to participate remotely.

**Bible Study Groups:** Despite the challenges, our Bible study groups have continued to meet primarily through Zoom. We remain dedicated to studying the Bible and have implemented an ongoing Bible study series provided by our church leaders.

Lastly, we have found Hybrid worship, a combination of in-person and online ministry, to be highly effective in engaging both our local and online communities. We believe that Hybrid ministry is the way of the future, extending beyond Sundays and offering opportunities for engagement, discipleship, teaching, and reaching the community in unprecedented ways. However, undertaking Hybrid ministry alone can be overwhelming. Fortunately, our solid media team at Bethel Church enables us to make a significant impact for Christ.

Anticipating and adapting to the changing realities brought about by new media is crucial for the benefit of the Kingdom of God. Here are some steps to consider:

1. **Stay informed:** Keep ourselves updated on the latest trends, technologies, and platforms in the digital media landscape. Stay connected with industry news, attend conferences or webinars, and engage in discussions to understand the evolving landscape.
2. **Understand the audience:** Gain insights into the preferences, habits, and needs of our target audience in the digital space. Conduct surveys, analyse data, and actively listen to feedback to understand how best to engage with and serve them.
3. **Embrace new platforms:** Be open to exploring and utilizing emerging platforms and technologies that can effectively reach and engage your target audience. This may include social media platforms, live streaming services, podcasting, mobile apps, or virtual reality experiences.
4. **Create relevant and compelling content:** Develop content that is meaningful, authentic, and relevant to the lives of your audience. Consider their needs, interests, and questions, and provide valuable resources, teachings, and stories that resonate with them.
5. **Foster engagement and interaction:** Encourage active participation, dialogue, and community building through your digital platforms. Facilitate discussions, respond to comments, and create opportunities for people to connect, ask questions, and share their experiences.
6. **Collaborate and network:** Seek partnerships and collaborations with like-minded ministries, organizations, or individuals. Pooling resources, sharing knowledge, and leveraging each other's strengths can lead to more impactful digital initiatives and broader reach.
7. **Emphasize discipleship and spiritual growth:** Leverage digital media to support and enhance discipleship efforts. Provide resources for Bible study, online courses, virtual mentorship, or prayer networks that nurture spiritual growth and support individuals on their faith journey.
8. **Evaluate and adapt:** Regularly assess the effectiveness of your digital initiatives by analysing metrics, feedback, and engagement levels. Adapt your strategies and approaches based on what resonates with your audience and aligns with your mission.
9. **Seek guidance and wisdom:** Seek guidance from God through prayer, seeking His direction and wisdom in using new media for His Kingdom. Consult with experienced leaders, mentors, or advisors who can provide insights and support in navigating the digital landscape with integrity and purpose.

By anticipating the changing realities of new media, adapting our strategies, and remaining focused on serving God's Kingdom, we can effectively use digital platforms to spread the gospel, disciple believers, and impact lives for His glory.

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY**

### **Abbreviations**

EBC - Eritrean Bethel Church

EBYM - Eritrean Bethel Youth Ministry

EBCM - Eritrean Bethel Children Ministry

### **Organisational Structure**

The EBC Children and Youth Ministry are two interconnected Service Departments of the Eritrean Bethel Church UK. As described in Article 11.1.3 of the constitution.

Pastor Ghirmai Ghebru, appointed by the Board of Elders (see Article 11.2 of the constitution), serves as leader of the Children and Youth Ministry Department.

For a comprehensive roles and responsibilities of the leader and deputy leader of Eritrean Bethel Church's Children and Youth Ministry, refer to (Article 11.2 of the constitution: Responsibilities and Functions of Church Services Department Leaders, hence not described within this section 2.1).

### **Youth & Children Ministry Leadership:**

- Ghirmai Ghebru
- Israel Haddish
- Dawit Aregay
- Teklit Gebrekirstos

### **Youth Ministry Sub Departments:**

- Teaching Department
- Youth Choir
- Admin Team
- Media Team

## Children Ministry: Sub Departments

- Teaching Department
- Children Choir
- Admin Team

## Eritrean Bethel Church Children Ministry (EBCM)

“Bethel Eritrean Church believes that children have a vital part to play within the body of Christ. They are not second-rate citizens in the kingdom of God. We believe God is raising a generation of excellence who will make a stand for him in our nation.”

We have four specific Sunday school classes adapted and tailored to the children’s ages. These classes allow our children to grow in wisdom and stature within their age groups as they are acquainted with the Word of God. For the past 10 years we have been following Scripture Union’s Light Compendium resources with week-to-week session materials for running our classes, allowing our children to explore the Bible, respond to Jesus and grow in faith. In 2024 we have partnered with Urban Saints Energize to develop a comprehensive and engaging curriculum. Thus, we have transitioned to utilise a new, dynamic, comprehensive curriculum that contains access to engaging, lively, biblical session plans for ages 3-15. It also contains online training resources to help our teaching department grow in confidence and be better equipped to authentically disciple children and young people.

- **Bubbles** class for 3 - 5 years of age
- **Splash** class for years 2, 3 and 4
- **Xstream** class for years 5, 6 and 7
- **Grid** class for years 8, 9 and 10

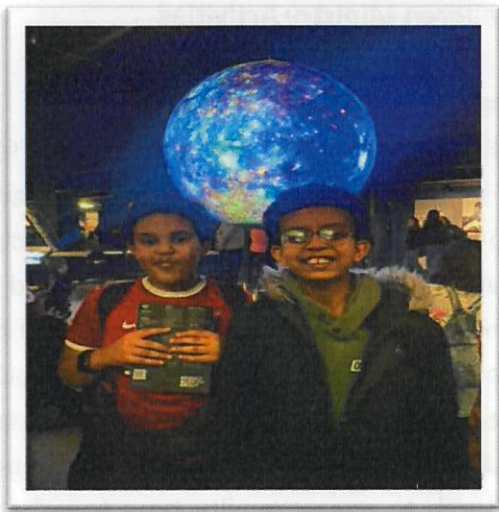
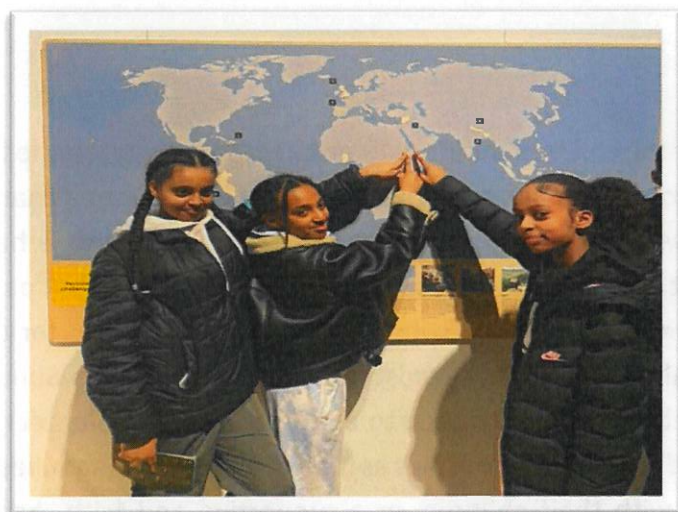
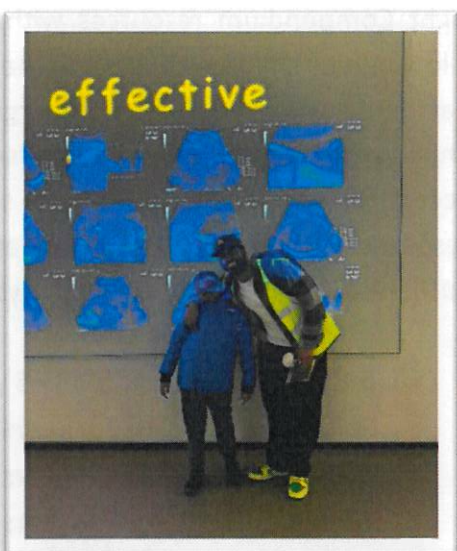
## Children Ministry Activities

### Half Term Activities:

EBCM holds regular day time activities for the children during half term. These activity days foster a sense of belonging and community among the children at our church, offering them a chance to learn about their faith in an interactive and age-appropriate manner. The activity days have varied, ranging from workshops hosted at church to day out activities- such as amusement parks and leisure centres. The heart behind these half term activities is to provide occasions for our young children to come together, socialize and build friendships outside of regular Sunday service classes. Additionally, family members are encouraged to attend and many volunteer to support its running. This has strengthened familial relationships as it as an occasion for families at church to spend quality time together, with their children, in a supportive and faith- based environment.

### Science Trip:

In 2024 we have sought to expand the type of activities organised for the young children, including more educational outreach days. For instance, during the recent half term activity in February a few volunteers from the youth took children from both Xstream and Grid class to the National Science Museum located in South Kensington. This educational outing was designed to enhance the children’s understanding and appreciation of science through interactive exhibits and hands-on activities. The National Science Museum offers a unique learning experience with its diverse range of displays, allowing the children to explore various scientific concepts in an engaging environment. There were 7 different exhibitions that the children participated in. These consisted of the following: Exploring Space Gallery, Medicine, Flight/Aerodynamics, Making the Modern World, Technicians, Secret Life of Home and the Clock Makers Museum. This day trip was an excellent way for both the youth and young children to fellowship and strengthen their relationships with one another.



### Young Teens Conference:

In July 2023, EBC took the young teens (12 to 15 years of age) on a four-day residential trip to Kingswood Adventure Centre, in Aston Clinton, England. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to form new connections, strengthen their unity and worship the Lord. It was an amazing time which included activities such as, abseiling, rock climbing and low ropes alongside our evening workshops that involved testimonies of salvation and group discussions. Days were divided into two slots, with morning activities and evening worship/ discussion times. The children thoroughly enjoyed the range of activities available to them, especially in the sports hall where they were able to fellowship and play games as they chose. On the last day we had a campfire with marshmallows, rounding our time together with some worship. All in all it was a memorable experience, and the grace of God was witnessed as eighteen (18) young children accepted Jesus Christ as their saviour. Following our trip, to facilitate the zeal of these young people, a separate class titled Young Warriors was created to foster their spiritual growth.



## Drama Projects

In April 2023, the children put on a play called Still Able which explored the journey of a young child coming to know Christ through a personal encounter. It was written by a member of the youth, who is in the performing arts industry, and performed by children ranging between the ages of 8 - 14 years old. The children were selected by video auditions that were sent in. Rehearsals began in January, every Sunday between 1pm - 2pm and the children were supported by members of the youth who are in the creative industry. The children love music and drama so it was an opportunity to do something they loved but also develop their skills whilst working with industry professionals. They received 1-to-1 support alongside group rehearsals. The impact we saw through this play were a deeper relationship with the Lord, increased confidence in public speaking, new friendships being formed, and gifts of leadership and service being nurtured in the children. This is something that we will be doing year

## Children Christmas Dinner

On Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, we organised a Christmas Dinner for the Children Ministry, spanning classes up to Grid level. Members of our Youth Ministry led the event, orchestrating games, and food arrangements. The day kicked off with a variety of games and activities tailored for the younger children. Following that, the children gathered for worship, expressing gratitude, and enjoying a special Christmas Dinner together. The aim of this event was to provide a festive gathering for the children, offering them an opportunity to bond outside of Sunday School while enjoying a safe, Christ-centred environment. Feedback the children indicated they had a blast with the games, worship, and food, expressing a desire for more such gatherings to spend quality time with friends and family.

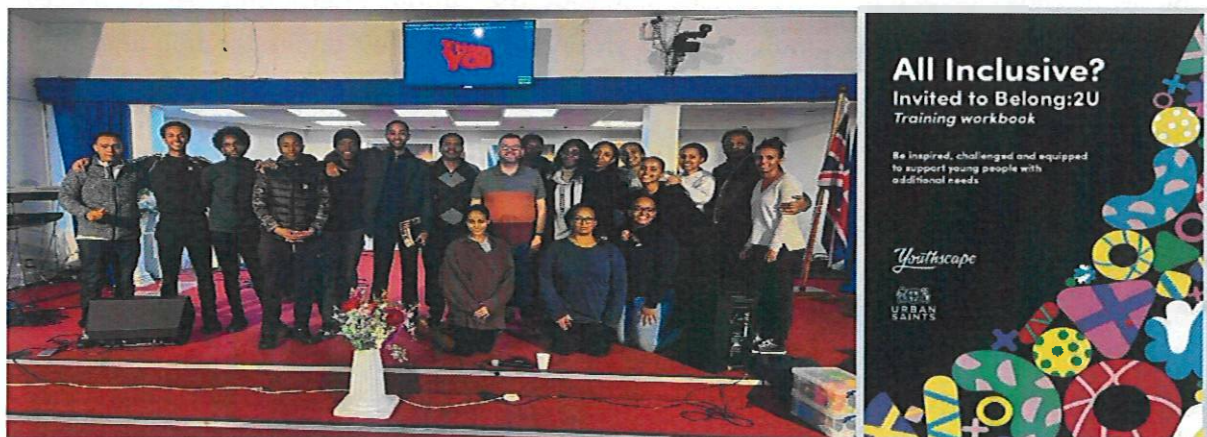


## Children Ministry Partnerships

As of April 2023, we are excited to announce that we have formally partnered with Scripture Union's Faith Guide programme. This programme seeks to connect servants from local churches to a local Scripture Union Mission Enabler who would provide prayer, support, workshops and resources to advance the good news of Jesus to the younger generation. They have a trained mission enabler, Jordana Smith, who is on hand to direct us to resources we can utilise and provide workshops as desired, which allows our local Children's Ministry to grow in creativity and facility as we serve to share the gospel.

## Urban Saints

Towards the latter half of the year, we have also developed partnership with Urban Saints. Urban Saints are a Christian organisation who provide support to local church in resource development and leadership training. We have subscribed to Urban Saints Energize curriculum which has given us access to new, engaging and diverse biblical sessions to utilise for Sunday school syllabus. Further, in October 2023 we invited Mark Arnold, from Urban Saints Additional Needs Ministry, to host a workshop training session at Church. This session was fantastic; it gave us practical insight on how we can effectively disciple all children and young people, especially those with additional needs or disabilities. The workshop concluded with pragmatic steps we can take as Sunday School teachers to equip and enable all our young people. We were also given 'Invited to Belong' resources, which are tailored booklets to support our continued development around additional needs.



## Eritrean Bethel Church Youth Ministry (EBCYM)

EBC Youth Ministry (16+) has grown massively in 2023, with saints from all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds. We have witnessed a revival in this ministry with souls saved, lives transformed, and countless testimonies of God's goodness at work in individual lives. We thank God for the committed ministers who, emboldened by faith, serve our youth and young adults wholeheartedly, contributing to the congregation's spiritual growth and overall well-being.

## **Why a Youth Ministry?**

Bethel Eritrean Church aims to provide a holistic approach to nurturing our young people's spiritual, emotional, and social well-being within Biblical beliefs and values. As such, EBCYM run various classes, fellowship meetings, counselling sessions and annual retreats to help our young people grow in their faith, enrich their relationship with God, and develop a strong foundation for their spiritual journey.

## **Teaching Department**

The Eritrean Bethel Youth and Young Adults Church teaching department, exists to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of worldly ideologies, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. (Ephesians 4:12-14).

We aspire to achieve these through teaching and preaching the Scripture which is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). We believe the Scripture is not merely a body of truth, but the very power of God which bears holistic change for a person who encounters it. We, therefore, aspire and work to train and raise young leaders who can carry out *the divine imperative to grow both in quality and quantity*.

EBCYM provides several morning classes alongside the Sunday afternoon English service, with rigorous teaching that allows individuals to grow deeper in their understanding and faith. Our morning classes are divided into three (detailed below), tailored to the Spiritual Maturity of its attendees.

### **Shepherds (10:00 am - 11:25 am)**

This group comprise of selected leaders from the youth and young adult ministry which is created in November 2019 with the aim of training and raising young leaders who can carry out God's divine imperative. That is, to raise leaders who have a biblical truth, convictions and a heart for God who are effective in impacting their generation for the glory of Jesus Christ. All the shepherds are now actively engaged in teaching and running the EBCM.

### **Discipleship (11:25 am - 12:25 pm)**

Pre baptismal teaching, that is, teaching on growing up in salvation 1 Pet 2: 2. The doctrine of the fall and of the Cross. The focus of this class is to show the sufficiency of the atonement of Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind.

### **Glory to Glory (12:25 pm - 1:25 pm)**

This class is aimed for the saints who have already baptized to bring them into the understanding of the purpose of original creation and recreation is to glorify God and be part of His glory. The theme of the teaching is to be fully alive as a human person is to be empowered by the Spirit of God to glorify God. We believe the ethos of human life is the adoration of God and the love of others as one self.

#### **Our leading verse is:**

*'And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.'*  
2 Cor. 3: 18

*'For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.'* Heb. 2: 10

### **Sunday English Service (2:30 pm - 5:30 pm)**

Every Sunday we have topical teachings, discussion, prayer and worship

### **Weekly Fellowship**

Outside of the regular Sunday programme, which includes tailored morning classes and an afternoon Sunday English Service for the entire congregation, we have fellowships during the week. These fellowships are:

#### **Prayer & Worship**

The weekly Prayer & Worship Service at EBCYM (opening hours Wednesday 6:30pm to 9:00 pm) offers a space for saints to pray for themselves and one another, promoting a sense of belonging and community. Sparked by a recognised need for more gatherings for the upbuilding of the youth and young adults through prayer and worship and the sharing of the Word of God; it was decided that prayer meetings would take place weekly (Hebrews 10:25)

These meetings were founded in August 2022, and are held in English it is an opportunity for believers to unite and reinforce their biblical beliefs, values, and convictions as they '...pray for one another...' (James 5:16) and 'carry each other's burdens...' (Galatians 6:2). This weekly prayer and worship service creates a bond that goes beyond mere social interactions as it is chance to share experiences, support one another, and strengthen relationships. Youth and young adults are encouraged to attend as freedom and enjoyment are found in worshipping the Lord (Psalm 100:4). These meeting are an opportunity to be led by the Holy Spirit and learn what He sees as true prayer and worship (John 14:26, John 16:13)

We have received the following feedback from one of our attendees:

“I think it’s been really helpful for me having a check in throughout the week in the form of Wednesdays [prayer and worship meetings]. I think for me that has helped me to be really grounded. And also, I think this coming together and having a chance to come intentionally to a time solely dedicated to prayer is extremely beneficial, especially in communal prayer which isn’t as common in the Church, and it gives a good time of reflecting and quiet time with God in the middle of a busy week.”

### **Bible Study**

The weekly Bible Studies at EBCYM (opening hours Friday 6:30pm to 9:00pm) is a focused and structured way for individuals to deepen their understanding of Scripture and their faith. It provides a platform for believers to explore and gain a deeper understanding of the teachings, parables, and wisdom contained within the Bible. It is open to those who are 16 years old and above. Usually, there are around 30 people who attend. The purpose of the bible study is to dig deeper into God’s word, looking beyond the surface of biblical texts and creating a space where we can discuss our thoughts and share the life of the word with one another.

The usual bible study programme runs as such: prayer, sharing the word (either by the youth pastor or one of the youth members), discussion followed by prayer and worship. However, during the year 2023, our bible study took a different course as we started reading *Mere Christianity* by C.S Lewis. This was suggested as an idea by one of the members of the youth because we had been learning, in the latter part of 2022, about apologetics and wanted to go deeper into that subject, which *Mere Christianity* was a great resource for. We read the book alongside other passages of scripture, which challenged our thinking and the narrow view that Christians who are born into the church have in regard to relating to questions and ideas about God that we may not have been exposed to until later on in our lives, through various relationships (e.g. school, work).

One of the benefits we have found through this time is a willingness to be more open and love others who have not been raised as most of us have and to get to grips with the challenging questions of life in order to help us evangelise, spreading the gospel with more spiritual and intellectual knowledge. Many young people who also joined the church during the time we were focusing on this book came to see the gospel in a new light and appreciate the message of the cross.

In the latter half of the year, we started to read the gospel of John. The youth pastor and a member of the youth would lead the sessions, and there would be discussions on the passages of scripture that we are focusing on. However, we then moved to appoint two people within the youth to lead the sessions so that everyone would have the opportunity to share what they have meditated on. Primarily this has helped us in getting to know Christ more and imitating him

through that knowledge, which has developed our spiritual lives. It has also helped in building confidence in others to share and speak, who normally wouldn't do so, which is one of the things our youth struggles with.

Every couple of months, we take one of the Fridays to pause on our normal bible studies and spend time in intentional prayer and worship, where we collectively pray for one another, the church and the world.

### **EBCYM Fellowship Activities:**

#### **Annual Youth Retreat**

A key event in the Youth Ministry is our much-anticipated annual retreat to Wales. It serves as a focused and intentional period of time in which our church community temporarily withdraws from the hustle and bustle of everyday life to focus on their spiritual journey. Through intentional worship, prayer, meditation, and reflection, saints experience a deepening of their faith as they take a break from the distractions of everyday life. Our annual retreat creates an environment conducive to forming deeper connections with fellow church members through recreational activities, shared meals, and workshops. Spending this extended time together has encouraged more meaningful conversations and the development of stronger relationships within the church community.

Our retreat is designed to promote spiritual growth and a dedicated time for reflection. Through the teachings, discussions and workshops, individuals can contemplate their life's direction, spiritual journey, and areas where they seek growth or change. We have seen countless testimonies of breakthroughs, deliverance, and healings from this focused time away, which gives credit to its positive impact on our local church community. It is also an opportunity for rejuvenation, a break from the stresses of everyday life, allowing our church community to recharge physically and emotionally. In summary, our annual retreat in Wales is designed to offer believers a unique opportunity to step away from their usual routines, engage in spiritual activities, strengthen relationships, and experience personal and communal growth in a supportive and tranquil environment. Over the years, we have witnessed lives transformed and a strong community spirit developed as church members come together outside of the usual church setting.

#### **Men's Football Match**

The Men's Youth 7-A-Side Football match took place in Tottenham Power League. This event was held with the initiative to fundraise for the International Youth Conference meaning all proceeds will be going back into the summer conference. This was a great way to bring the youth together whilst allowing the players to enhance their team work and communication skills. It was an

evening full of competitiveness and an incredible amount of determination. Whilst planning this event, many of the youth were given responsibilities such as contacting the facilities and ensuring all participants have signed up and paid on time. This was a brilliant way to allow them to exercise collective responsibility and organisation skills. The event ran smoothly and everyone had a lovely time.

**Men's Football Match**



## Games Night

Games Night 2023 was a night full of social activities and fellowship. The aim of the game's night was more than 'having fun.' It was an intentional way of creating opportunities for individuals to interact with each other. This night was packed with games such as Finish the Lyric, Bob's Not the Builder, Guess the Baby, Run and Seek, Balloon-Set-Go, No time to Chew, Head Shoulders Knees Cup- hosted by Paul and Sharon. The most popular game was Bob's Not the Builder. This game consisted of the team members building the tallest free-standing structure with 10 spaghetti stick, tape, and marshmallows. All teams were given the same account of time (3 mins). Once this was done, there was a wobble test to see how sturdy each team's structure was. This game allowed all team members to get hands-on whilst strengthening their team works. The night closed with a youth member sharing an incredible word and a further youth member leading the saints in a time of worship.

## Worship & Paint

Worship and Paint, in February 2024, was an event held to fundraise for the International Conference that will be held in the upcoming Summer of 2024. The evening allowed the youth to participate in an artistic activity, giving them an opportunity to showcase their creativity whilst spending their time singing praises. It was an amazing way to discover the hidden artists amongst our Kingdom. The theme of the Worship & Paint was linked to the topic of our teachings for the past couple of months- Righteousness. All participants were instructed to paint how they would envision righteousness. There were varying interpretations which was a pleasure to see. This was a night that allowed the youth to strengthen in fellowship and grow an intimate bond with one another.



## **Christmas Dinner 21+**

This event was designed for those aged 21 and above to enjoy a Christmas dinner together, fostering fellowship among attendees. We were fortunate to have a larger turnout than anticipated, surpassing our capacity of 40 people. Organised by the youth members, the evening took place at a venue in Muswell Hill. Guests were treated to a delightful 3-course meal and ample time for conversation and camaraderie among the gathered saints. The gathering also included the sharing of the word of God, followed by prayer and team-based games like charades. The night culminated in joyful singing and dancing as we played mezmur. The primary aim of the Christmas dinner was to unite the saints in celebration of Christ's birth, hence the emphasis on sharing the word. It proved to be a meaningful occasion for saints to connect with unfamiliar faces and for those less frequent in their church attendance to reconnect with fellow members, resulting in a sense of blessing from both the shared word and life experiences of the community. Some even expressed a desire to return to church because of the event, for which we give glory to the Lord.

## **Baptism Service**

In July 2023, we held a Baptism Service for the youth, fourteen (14) individuals were baptised. This involved their public profession-n of faith in Christ Jesus as they proclaimed dying to their sin (Romans 6:11) as they were submerged in the water and being raised to a brand-new life (Colossians 2:12) as they emerged from the water.

Before the baptisms took place, the individuals were given an opportunity to share their testimonies. This was a joyous and remarkable moment as they gave countless testimonies of God's saving power! At the end of the baptism service, the church community prayed over the saints for God's guidance, strength, and empowerment in their faith. Following the service, we had a time of celebration as the congregation celebrated the newly baptised individuals.



## **Community Impact**

All glory be to God as 2023 saw the children and youth ministry at our local church becoming a beacon of community impact. Through its dynamic weekly fellowships, Sunday services, half-term activities and annual retreats we've witnessed a remarkable surge in congregational members, indicative of a growing interest and involvement in our fellowship. More significantly, these fellowships and programmes have led to hearts fully turning to the Lord, fostering spiritual growth and deepening connections within our congregation. Notably, there's been greater engagement from members across all age groups, illustrating a vibrant sense of community and shared faith. Through heartfelt thanksgiving to the Lord, we celebrate this transformation, recognising it as a testament to His grace and the dedication of our leadership team. As our fellowship continues to expand, we are inspired by the tangible evidence of lives being touched and hearts being uplifted, reinforcing our commitment to serving and nurturing our community in faith.

## **Testimonies**

### **Anonymous: Testimony of Youth Ministry**

"Before Christ, I really didn't understand who I was or purpose I had in life and honestly, I didn't care either. I didn't think my life was necessarily bad because I wasn't doing the things others did which I viewed as bad, in my eyes that is. I had no idea of my lack; I was truly lost. But God met me when I didn't even expect, I sought Him out of fear of judgement, but He met me with grace. When I came to Christ, I didn't know what to make of it but thankfully I knew a friend who was in Christ. I reached out to her, and she invited me to her church, Bethel. Here, I have encountered God's love through His people and have truly found a family. I've learnt so much about God, and I'm growing every day. I am encouraged every day and have people with whom I can laugh and cry. I'm blessed to be in their midst."

### **Anonymous: Testimony of Bible Study**

"I have received the blessing of community, friendship and knowing the truth at Bethel Church. My life before Christ in short was always stressful. I was on guard 24/7 and filled with fear 24/7. This broke me down to being a shell of a human. I have grown to be feeling, to love God and love people, to have a clearer mind. I started coming to Bethel when I was in Sixth Form. Each Friday, there is bible study. I started reading the bible, researching things myself and saw the teaching were true. Since then, here, I never see the idea of being 'done' when learning about God. Because of this, it is very clear to me that God is real, infinite, eternal, and can do anything. The humility I see in the leadership is what pushes me personally to know God."

## **Anonymous: Testimony of Wales Annual Retreat**

“Wales felt 'make or break' for me. I had been dealing with multiple attacks/issues at once, primarily affecting my health and finances. (Chronic headaches, fatigue, unexpected bills/payments) Having bare appointments with doctors who couldn't diagnose anything (over the years). Long story short I started to think God was for everyone but me (Which put me down a dark path). I'd been fasting and praying and vowed to be as intentional as I could in all the teachings. (Seek his kingdom). I remember getting to the penultimate day of Wales and I sat down with a youth leader and explained that I understood the teachings in Wales however I felt incapable of actioning them (due to attacks). This youth leader started to pray, and a manifestation began. I remember him saying, "Resist with me". I didn't fully understand what he meant until a manifestation started during worship: the demon became destructive and fled the worship. (I'm conscious during my deliverances) The penny finally dropped. "Resist with me" I started remembering quoting verses like (Isaiah 54:17, 2 Timothy 1:7, and Psalm 23:1) and I was finally delivered. No more chronic headaches, and I can read and take in the Bible. The word of God is powerful.

## **FAMILY MINISTRY**

### **Challenges Faced by Young People in University**

The Family Ministry conducted a workshop addressing the challenges that young people face when they transition to university life. The workshop, which saw the participation of over 60 individuals, included both parents and young adults from the congregation. The aim was to foster open communication between generations, allowing the young people to express their concerns and seek support from their families and the church.

### **Workshop Overview**

The workshop provided a platform for young adults to share their experiences and challenges in university. The issues raised included:

- **Financial Strain:** Many students spoke about the financial pressures they face while pursuing their studies, including tuition fees, accommodation costs, and daily living expenses.
- **Exam Stress:** The overwhelming pressure to succeed in exams was a common concern, with students discussing the mental and emotional toll it takes on them.
- **Homesickness:** Young people expressed how much they miss their families and the comfort of home-cooked meals, particularly mentioning “mum's food” as a significant source of comfort they miss.
- **Emotional Well-being:** The absence of family support and the struggle to adapt to a new environment led many to feel isolated and stressed.

## Requests from the Young Adults

The young adults made several requests to their parents and the church community:

- **Regular Check-ins:** They urged their parents to maintain regular contact, offering emotional and moral support through phone calls or visits.
- **Church Support:** They requested that church shepherds (leaders) reach out to them, provide spiritual guidance, and, if possible, visit them in person to pray together.

## Outcome and Feedback

The workshop was met with positive feedback from the participants. Many parents expressed their gratitude towards the Family Ministry for organizing such an event, recognizing the importance of understanding the struggles their children face during their University life. The open dialogue helped bridge the gap between parents and young adults, fostering a deeper sense of community and mutual support.

## Family Ministry Updates

Family Ministry welcomed two new members to the team: Yordanos Habtemicheal and Mussie Habte. Their addition is expected to strengthen the ministry's efforts in supporting families and young people within the church.

## Future Plans

The Family Ministry has outlined plans for future events, including:

- **Fellowship for Senior Members:** There is a plan to invite all church members over the age of 60 for a fellowship gathering. This event aims to engage senior members of the church and offer them a platform for social interaction and spiritual enrichment.
- **Upcoming Workshop:** Before the end of the year, the Family Ministry will host another workshop to continue addressing relevant issues within the church.

## Conclusion

The recent workshop organized by the Family Ministry was a resounding success, highlighting the challenges faced by young people at university and the essential role of family and church support. As the ministry continues to expand its efforts, it remains committed to fostering a nurturing environment for all members of the congregation.

## WORSHIP TEAM

This particular department consists of more than 20 members although on average only 10-12 people have been serving every Sunday service. The reason behind this low turn will be disclosed below in this document. Choir leadership is responsible for the day to day administration and technical team are responsible for the worship and technical aspects of the service.

Recruiting new choir members involves candidates passing mandatory selection process and entails the following.

1. Singing/vocal test sessions
2. Attending practice sessions for 90 days

The body responsible for facilitating the above is technical team. Duties of technical team also includes selection process of new worship leaders, microphone allocation and maintaining quality of sound PA system. Due to the long term effects of the pandemic technical team have not had the chance to fulfil the outstanding training/workshop sessions they had in plan. Similarly choir leadership has not had the opportunity to positively capitalise on the good relationship it has with other Eritrean churches in London.

The main aim of the worship ministry is to lead worship on Sunday as well as during prayer and other special services. The Worship Ministry serves beyond Bethel Eritrean Church's congregation, to people all over the world through social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook. Throughout the period mentioned the team consistently gathered for practice sessions every Tuesday and also served on Sunday mornings. We also commenced having fellowship dinner time on Tuesday evenings after practice sessions intermittently on non-obligatory basis, and this had positive impact in the team's bond and created togetherness. We also held prayer and fasting meetings intermittently.

We also encouraged choir members to write their own songs in order to make the most of the grace that was given to us by God almighty. This evidently lifted the confidence of the team and enhanced sense of belonging. Worship leaders also have been tasked to select new songs of members and include them in the worship songs. We aim to enshrine this practice in our worship service God willing for months and years to come. This will be one of our legacies. We also had a separate lunch fellowship time in October and held informal discussions about the service and our wellbeing/welfare. Prior to this meeting formal annual choir members meeting was also held in August where we negotiated and outlined proposals collectively, and agreed on action plans.

The low turn attendance reasons mentioned above are for the following reasons

- Extended maternity leave
- Relocation
- Work commitments

**Biblical Discussion:** Every Tuesday evening, our church Elders host live discussions on a range of topics, including spiritual growth, church development, and social issues. We invite speakers from around the world to share their insights. These discussions are also aired on MaEzer Seamy Satellite TV, reaching a broader audience. Bible study

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees are aware of the requirements of the charity to have a Reserve policy and aim to maintain a target balance of three months operation costs at any time to ensure on going delivery of its charitable objectives.

### **Principal Funding**

This is provided mainly through voluntary tithes and offerings by members and through gifts aid scheme. Pledges are also taken for specific projects whenever needed.

### **Financial Review**

Eritrean Beth-el Church London had incoming resources of £260,969 as shown on the statement of financial activities. Resources expended in undertaking its charitable activities amounted to £203,755 resulting in a surplus of £57,214. All the church assets are held for the furtherance of its objectives.

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees in determining how best to pursue these objectives, have taken on board guidance from Charity Commission in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011, including the guidance on the Advancement of Religion for public benefit.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

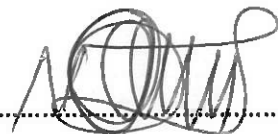
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally accepted Accounting Practice.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust of the deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently
- observe the method and principles in the Charity SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the basis of current concerns unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at any time and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



.....

Nataniel Yemane

Date: 11 June 2024

I report on the account of Eritrean Beth-el Church in London for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 2 to 35.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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 REPORT**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - To keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charity Act.
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, 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.



.....

**Independent examiner**

Tsega Ateweberhan

1 Henderson Drive, DA1 5LE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		£	£
Incoming Resources from charitable activities:	3	180,257	135,379
Activities for generating funds	2	4,556	6,692
Other incoming resources	4	76,155	91,046
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b><u>260,969</u></b>	<b><u>233,117</u></b>
<b>EXPENDED RESOURCES</b>			
Charitable activities	5	203,755	166,749
<b>Total resource expended</b>		<b><u>203,755</u></b>	<b><u>166,749</u></b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing)resources for the year/ Net income / (expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>57,214</b>	<b>66,368</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b><u>896,052</u></b>	<b><u>829,684</u></b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b><u>953,266</u></b>	<b><u>896,052</u></b>

The statements of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate stamen of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

**BALANCE SHEET**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	8		777,856		802,704
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		379,432		325,458	
Prepayment		161			
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
amounts fallings due within one year				1186	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>379,593</u>		<u>324,272</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSET LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
			1,157,449		1,126,977
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7		<u>-204,183</u>		<u>-230,925</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			953,266		896,052
<b>FUNDS</b>					
General Purpose Fund			<u>953,266</u>		<u>896,052</u>

The Financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees on 11th of June 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



Samson Amanuel Menghistu

The notes from Page 32 to 35 forms part of these financial statements

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), The Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

#### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the amounts are realised and can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Church collections and gifts to the church are recognised as income when received.

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when on receipts.

#### **Tax reclaim on donations and gifts**

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA on accruals basis.

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the Church or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distribution by the Church.

#### **Donated services**

The Charity does not quantify and include services provided by the volunteers in the financial statement as the costs of collecting such data is considered to be more than any benefit to the charity. The value of the voluntary help is however described in the trustees, annual report.

#### **Investment income, gains and losses**

Investment income is included in the financial statements when received. Gains and losses on sale of investments or resulting from revaluation of investments are determined at point of disposal or revaluation. Gains or losses arising at the point of revaluation are not included in the accounts.

**Resources expended**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property (Building)-2% straight line basis.

Musical instruments and office equipment - 25% reducing balance basis.

**2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUND**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Building Fund	0	0
Fund raising Sales	4,556	6,692
	<u>4,556</u>	<u>6,692</u>

**3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Tithes and Offerings	162,509	123,375
Tax reclaimed on Gift Aids	17,749	12,005
	<u>180,257</u>	<u>135,379</u>

**4. OTHER INCOME**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Rent	3,890	3,241
Deposit Interest	2,401	182
Refund	101	416
Contribution	11,458	4,575
Gift	4,974	5,127
Tuition		
Fee	53,331	77,504
	<u>76,155</u>	<u>91,046</u>

**5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Payment for the Ministers	59,940	49,459
PAYE and NI	7,277	5,394
Pension	2,512	2,273
Office Materials	1,842	2,651
Insurance	3,528	1,882
Donation & Gifts	23,832	7,545
Bible, Cassettes, News Papers etc.	8,417	4,030
Travel & Subsistence	7,853	4,353
IT and Office machines Maintenance	0	1,410
Telephone, Gas & Electricity	4,383	3,576
Rent	2,239	3,692
Conference & Training	11,111	9,892
Catering & Refreshment	4,067	4,380
Printing, Stationery, Photocopy,		
Postage	1,361	3,324
Bank Charges	2,580	778
Premises Expense	8,930	7,827
Professional Fee	1,912	1,954
Membership Fee	1,353	2,512
Mortgage Payment	17,253	11,645
Repair/Maintenance of Property	7,217	11,482
Depreciation	26,149	26,694
	<b>203,755</b>	<b>166,749</b>

## 6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year and in the previous years, no Trustee received remuneration, benefit in kind or had reimbursement of expenses.

## 7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Bank Loan	204,183	230,925

The Bank loan is a commercial mortgage secured by charges on Eritrean Beth-el Church in London's premises at Unit 1 and 2 OSKA Building, Empress Works, Boreham Road, N22 6SL.

## 8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

<b>Cost</b>	<b>Office Equipment &amp; Musical Instrument</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Total</b>
At 01/01/2023	140,093	1,010,181	1,150,274
Additions	1,301		1,301
Disposal			0
<b>1</b>	<b>141,393</b>	<b>1,010,181</b>	<b>1,151,574</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 01/01/2023	117,287	230,283	347,569
Additions	5,945	20,204	26,149
Disposal			0
<b>At 31/12/2023</b>	<b>123,232</b>	<b>250,486</b>	<b>373,718</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 01/01/2023	22,806	800,102	822,908
<b>At 31/12/2023</b>	<b>18,161</b>	<b>759,695</b>	<b>777,856</b>

**ERITREAN BETH-EL CHURCH IN LONDON**

England & Wales - Charity number 1083084

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# Accounts

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**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
of  
Eritrean Beth-El Church in London  
Year ended 31st of December 2022**

**Charity Number: 1083084**

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**Registered Charity Number:** 1083084

**Registered Office** Units 1 and 2 Oska Building  
Empress Works  
Boreham Road  
N22 6SL

**Board of Trustees**

Tibrah Hagos Ghiday	Chair
Goitom Gulay	Treasurer
Goitom S Mebrahtu	Secretary
Asheber Tesfay	
Nathnael Yemane	
Biniam Habtom	
Musie Habte	

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank  
Brixton Branch  
463-465 Brixton Road  
London  
SW9 8HL

The Trustees present their report with financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Eritrean Beth-el Church in London is a Church and a Charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The management of the church is the responsibility of the Trustees who are appointed on a permanent basis. The Trustees meet on quarterly basis. The day to day management including the implementation of strategies approved by the Trustees is delegated to the Elders Board, whose members are elected by the members of the church on Five years interval. There are 3 part-time pastors and 1 part-time office admin employed by the church.

## **TRUSTEES' INDUCTION AND TRAINING**

New Trustees are trained by a delegate of the chair using the charity commission guidance paper. Existing Trustees attend training from time to time to keep up-to-date with the latest requirements and best practice. In addition, informal learning continues to take place on an on-going basis.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees have the duty to identify and review the risk to which the church is exposed to and ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide a reasonable assurance against the identified risks. The Trustees have assessed all the major risks that may affect the operation of the church in the foreseeable future and are satisfied that there are systems in place to manage the exposure to them.

## **FREEHOLD PROPERTY**

The Trustees act as custodian (registered owners) of Eritrean Beth-el Church in London main freehold property which is used as its place of worship (Unit 1 and 2 Oska Building, empress work, Boreham Road, Turnpike Lane, London N22 6SL) and ( Sterling Road, Wood Green, N22 5BT) which is currently rented to another church as a place of worship.

## **OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

- 1) To advance religion among the Eritrean Community in United Kingdom by proclaiming the gospel of Lord Jesus Christ in their mother tongue.
- 2) To advance the education of the Eritrean Community in the United Kingdom in all matters relating to their indigenous and British culture and way of life.
- 3) To provide advice, information and practical assistance to those members of the Eritrean Community who are in need of such service.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

During 2022 The church operated its work and all services from its main church at Boreham Road in Turnpike lane wood green N22 (Sunday services and mid-week service), this building is also used as the base for small group prayer, bible study, support, advise, counselling and other small to medium size meetings. The board of Elders consists of 11 people with three of the leaders being paid a part time salary working for 16 hours a week.

The board of Elders works closely with the church trustees, the church Deacons and the wider church membership.

EBC is a member of Alliance of Eritrean churches in the United Kingdom and continues to work in partnership with all churches and carry out its outreach work within the United Kingdom.

### **Prayer Group**

The prayers activities were delivered in person once a month on the last Saturday of the month from 11am to 5pm and via conference call every morning Monday to Sunday from 5am to 7am and every evening Monday to Friday 7pm to 9pm.

### **Bethel Bible College (BBC)**

Bethel Bible College sessions has the aim of supporting students within the Eritrean community in their education. The sessions are conducted both face to face and distance learning modes. For distance learning mode synchronous learning with live video streaming via Zoom, are streamed to students across the World. Streamed video lessons are also loaded into Moodle Learning Management System for LMS for asynchronous learning, making the delivery of the content more flexible for students that cannot attend face-to-face sessions or the live video streaming, for many different reasons including time restrictions. The lessons sessions are mainly conducted via Zoom with live video streaming, also delivered Face-to-Face to students, in branches including Addis Ababa Ethiopia, Juba & Kassala, Sudan, Jeddah & Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and Edmonton, Canada. During this period 10 bible theology courses to each classes including Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma and a Tigriña Language Grammar courses are given.

The programme started with 27 students for the first time as pilot Face-to-Face project commencing January 2017 till December 2017. In 2018 the number of students increased to 58 who completed the courses successfully with 33 Face-to-Face from Local churches in London as well as 28 online distance and graduated at certificate level. In year 2019, the college extend the courses to diploma level and enrolled students from all over the world including Europe, Canada, America, Australia, Africa and Israel, energised by the good previous student's engagements and the successful delivery of the online streaming of the lessons. Every year most of the certificate students continue their studies into the Diploma courses. In year 2021 the college also introduced a new course in Advanced Diploma level.

In year 2022 the college successfully delivered all lessons in three of the levels Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma, and celebrated graduation ceremony in all of the countries, including London, UK, Germany, Denmark, Juba & Kassala, Sudan, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and Edmonton, Canada and Houston Texas, USA. The following number of students completed their lessons and attended graduation ceremony.

- Certificate Level      132 Students
- Diploma Level        113 Students
- Advance Dioloma      15 Students

In total 260 students successfully completed their lessons and attended graduation ceremony.

A long term plan is to expand the programme to reach more members of the community, especially people in disadvantaged areas such as those who cannot access to a theology course in the places they reside including refugees.

### **Woman ministry**

The churches woman's ministry operates from four zones of London, East, west, North and South London. The focus of this ministry includes supporting the vulnerable through phone call and visits as well as prayer and having fellowship.

A joint meeting of all the woman within the church is carried out four times a year at the main church's premises. In addition, a monthly zone meeting / fellowship also takes place by hiring local halls.

The woman's ministry is also active in supporting bereaved families and those who are in hospital and most vulnerable members of the church. This service became more relevant and important during the pandemic as a number of the older members of the church were house bound and needed support. The woman's ministry increased their frequency of phone calls and other means of checking on those who are vulnerable and successfully supported a number of them during this period.

### **Department of Missions**

Bethel Church has had a Department for Missions since 2002. The church leadership believed that Bethel should be at the forefront of God's work of salvation through missions. To this end, various practical measures were taken to facilitate its vision. The Department has been sending short-term missionaries to the Horn of Africa for two decades. These include countries such as Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Djibouti.

### **Family Ministry**

The Family ministry focuses on reviving & restorative message of the everlasting gospel within the context of family living. To affirm and strengthen every Christian family as a primary discipline unit. To enable parents & families to increase the likelihood of successful transference of Christian values to the next generation. To empower families for winsome witness and to create a "family of God" experience in Eritrean Bethel Church.

In this year 2022, there was no family activities, as some Covid restriction were still in place and also some members in the role of leadership were not present to conduct or arrange activities.

## **Worship Team**

This particular department consists of more than 20 members although on average only 10-12 people have been serving every Sunday service. The reason behind this low turn will be disclosed below in this document. Choir leadership is responsible for the day to day administration and technical team are responsible for the worship and technical aspects of the service.

Recruiting new choir members involves candidates passing mandatory selection process and entails the following.

1. Singing/vocal test sessions
2. Attending practice sessions for 90 days

The body responsible for facilitating the above is technical team. Duties of technical team also includes selection process of new worship leaders, microphone allocation and maintaining quality of sound PA system. Due to the long term effects of the pandemic technical team have not had the chance to fulfil the outstanding training/workshop sessions they had in plan. Similarly choir leadership has not had the opportunity to positively capitalise on the good relationship it has with other Eritrean churches in London.

The main aim of the worship ministry is to lead worship on Sunday as well as during prayer and other special services. The Worship Ministry serves beyond Bethel Eritrean Church's congregation, to people all over the world through social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook. Throughout the period mentioned the team consistently gathered for practice sessions every Tuesday and also served on Sunday mornings. We also commenced having fellowship dinner time on Tuesday evenings after practice sessions intermittently on non-obligatory basis, and this had positive impact in the team's bond and created togetherness. We also held prayer and fasting meetings intermittently.

We also encouraged choir members to write their own songs in order to make the most of the grace that was given to us by God almighty. This evidently lifted the confidence of the team and enhanced sense of belonging. Worship leaders also have been tasked to select new songs of members and include them in the worship songs. We aim to enshrine this practice in our worship service God willing for months and years to come. This will be one of our legacies. We also had a separate lunch fellowship time in October and held informal discussions about the service and our wellbeing/welfare. Prior to this meeting formal annual choir members meeting was also held in August where we negotiated and outlined proposals collectively, and agreed on action plans.

The low turn attendance reasons mentioned above are for the following reasons

1. Extended maternity leave
2. Relocation
3. Work commitments

We are in the process of launching new recruitment opportunities and, the joiner pack/criteria is currently under review and will subsequently be amended. Additionally we want to train new worship leaders in the near future.

## **Media Ministry**

The primary mission of Bethel Eritrea Church is to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ. In today's digital age, there are numerous channels available for spreading this message to people worldwide. Bethel Church recognizes the importance of utilizing media technologies to reach a broader audience.

Traditional media models have undergone significant changes due to shifting consumption patterns. As a result, Bethel Church embraces a hybrid media model that emphasizes emerging platforms like the Internet and mobile technologies. One such platform is YouTube, the leading video sharing website. Bethel Church has its own YouTube channel, which serves as a platform for sharing content. With over 100 million monthly users on YouTube, it provides a substantial congregation to engage with.

The content uploaded on the Bethel Church YouTube channel receives various comments, not all of which are positive. However, it is encouraging to know that the messages are being viewed by those who often need to hear them the most.

This ministry not only supports the technical aspects of our worship, including the choir, but also records various events, teachings, and sermons. These recordings are made available online through our YouTube channel and website, allowing for live streaming and on-demand access for individuals to engage with the content.

### **Sunday Worship:**

our church, like many others, has embraced online services. We have expanded our worship experience by utilizing platforms such as YouTube Live, Facebook, our website, and various social media channels. This allows us to connect with individuals who are unable to attend Sunday Worship in person. Our live video streams are accessible on our Facebook page, website, and YouTube channel every Sunday at 10:30 am.

**Prayer:** We have established Prayer Services on Zoom and Conference Call Dialup, available every morning and evening throughout the week. This provides a convenient platform for communal prayer and allows individuals to participate remotely.

**Biblical Discussion:** Every Tuesday evening, our church Elders host live discussions on a range of topics, including spiritual growth, church development, and social issues. We invite speakers from around the world to share their insights. These discussions are also aired on MaEzer Seamy Satellite TV, reaching a broader audience.

**Bible Study Groups:** Despite the challenges, our Bible study groups have continued to meet primarily through Zoom. We remain dedicated to studying the Bible and have implemented an ongoing Bible study series provided by our church leaders.

Lastly, we have found Hybrid worship, a combination of in-person and online ministry, to be highly effective in engaging both our local and online communities. We believe that Hybrid ministry is the way of the future, extending beyond Sundays and offering opportunities for engagement, discipleship, teaching, and reaching the community in unprecedented ways. However, undertaking Hybrid ministry alone can be overwhelming. Fortunately, our solid media team at Bethel Church enables us to make a significant impact for Christ.

Anticipating and adapting to the changing realities brought about by new media is crucial for the benefit of the Kingdom of God. Here are some steps to consider:

1. **Stay informed:** Keep ourselves updated on the latest trends, technologies, and platforms in the digital media landscape. Stay connected with industry news, attend conferences or webinars, and engage in discussions to understand the evolving landscape.
2. **Understand the audience:** Gain insights into the preferences, habits, and needs of our target audience in the digital space. Conduct surveys, analyze data, and actively listen to feedback to understand how best to engage with and serve them.
3. **Embrace new platforms:** Be open to exploring and utilizing emerging platforms and technologies that can effectively reach and engage your target audience. This may include social media platforms, live streaming services, podcasting, mobile apps, or virtual reality experiences.
4. **Create relevant and compelling content:** Develop content that is meaningful, authentic, and relevant to the lives of your audience. Consider their needs, interests, and questions, and provide valuable resources, teachings, and stories that resonate with them.
5. **Foster engagement and interaction:** Encourage active participation, dialogue, and community building through your digital platforms. Facilitate discussions, respond to comments, and create opportunities for people to connect, ask questions, and share their experiences.
6. **Collaborate and network:** Seek partnerships and collaborations with like-minded ministries, organizations, or individuals. Pooling resources, sharing knowledge, and leveraging each other's strengths can lead to more impactful digital initiatives and broader reach.
7. **Emphasize discipleship and spiritual growth:** Leverage digital media to support and enhance discipleship efforts. Provide resources for Bible study, online courses, virtual mentorship, or prayer networks that nurture spiritual growth and support individuals on their faith journey.
8. **Evaluate and adapt:** Regularly assess the effectiveness of your digital initiatives by analyzing metrics, feedback, and engagement levels. Adapt your strategies and approaches based on what resonates with your audience and aligns with your mission.
9. **Seek guidance and wisdom:** Seek guidance from God through prayer, seeking His direction and wisdom in using new media for His Kingdom. Consult with experienced leaders, mentors, or advisors who can provide insights and support in navigating the digital landscape with integrity and purpose.

By anticipating the changing realities of new media, adapting our strategies, and remaining focused on serving God's Kingdom, we can effectively use digital platforms to spread the gospel, disciple believers, and impact lives for His glory.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees are aware of the requirements of the charity to have a Reserve policy and aim to maintain a target balance of three months operation costs at any time to ensure on going delivery of its charitable objectives.

### **Principal Funding**

This is provided mainly through voluntary tithes and offerings by members and through gifts aid scheme. Pledges are also taken for specific projects whenever needed.

### **Financial Review**

Eritrean Beth-el Church London had incoming resources of £233,117 as shown on the statement of financial activities. Resources expended in undertaking its charitable activities amounted to £166,749 resulting in a surplus of £66,368. All the church assets are held for the furtherance of its objectives.

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees in determining how best to pursue these objectives, have taken on board guidance from Charity Commission in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011, including the guidance on the Advancement of Religion for public benefit.

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

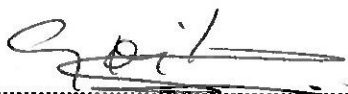
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally accepted Accounting Practice.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust of the deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently;
- observe the method and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the basis of current concerns unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at any time and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports ) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



Goitom S Mebrahtu

Date: 11/06/23

I report on the account of Eritrean Beth-el Church in London for the year ended 31 December 2022 set out on pages 2 to 18.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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.

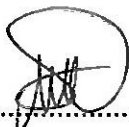
**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charity Act ;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, 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.



.....  
**Independent examiner**

Tsega Ateweberhan

1 Henderson Drive, DA1 5LE

**Eritrean Beth-el Church in London**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the year Ended 31 December 2022**

	Notes	2022	2021
		£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>			
Incoming Resources from charitable activities:	3	135,379	116,641
Activities for generating funds	2	6,692	3,197
Other incoming resources	4	91,046	66,287
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b><u>233,117</u></b>	<b><u>186,125</u></b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>			
Charitable activities	5	166,749	129,787
<b>Total resource expended</b>		<b><u>166,749</u></b>	<b><u>129,787</u></b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing)resources for the year/ Net income / (expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>66,368</b>	<b>56,337</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b><u>829,684</u></b>	<b><u>773,347</u></b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b><u>896,052</u></b>	<b><u>829,684</u></b>

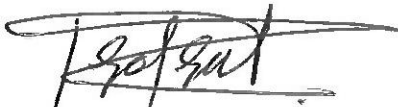
The statements of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate stamen of total recognised gains and losses has note been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

Eritrean Beth-el Church in London  
 Balance Sheet  
 At 31 December 2022

		2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
	Notes				
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	8		802,704		821,406
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		325,458		266,224	
Prepayment				2,108	
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
amounts fallings due within one year		1,186			
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>324,272</u>		<u>268,332</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSET LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			1,126,977		1,089,738
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7		<u>-230,925</u>		<u>-260,054</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			896,052		829,684
<b>FUNDS</b>					
General Purpose Fund			<u>896,052</u>		<u>829,684</u>

The Financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees on 11th of June 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



Goitom Gulay ( Treasurer)

The notes from Page 15 to 18 forms part of these financial statements

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), The Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the amounts are realised and can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Church collections and gifts to the church are recognised as income when received.

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when on receipts.

### **Tax reclaim on donations and gifts**

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA on accruals basis.

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the Church or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distribution by the Church.

### **Donated services**

The Charity does not quantify and include services provided by the volunteers in the financial statement as the costs of collecting such data is considered to be more than any benefit to the charity. The value of the voluntary help is however described in the trustees, annual report.

### **Investment income , gains and losses**

Investment income is included in the financial statements when received. Gains and losses on sale of investments or resulting from revaluation of investments are determined at point of disposal or revaluation. Gains or losses arising at the point of revaluation are not included in the accounts.

**Resources expended**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property (Building)- 2% straight line basis

Musical instruments and office equipment - 25% Reducing balance basis

**2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUND**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Building Fund	0	300
Fund raising Sales	6,692	2,897
	<u>6,692</u>	<u>3,197</u>

**3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Tithes and Offerings	123,375	104,958
Tax reclaimed on Gift Aids	12,005	11,683
	<u>135,379</u>	<u>116,641</u>

**4. OTHER INCOME**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Rent	3,241	3,940
Deposit Interest	182	10
Refund	416	888
Contribution	4,575	836
Gift	5,127	3,963
Tuition Fee	77,504	56,651
	<u>91,046</u>	<u>66,287</u>

## 5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Payment for the Ministers	49,459	46,800
PAYE and NI	5,394	7,075
Pension	2,273	245
Office Materials	2,651	2,059
Insurance	1,882	1,288
Donation & Gifts	7,545	7,930
Bible,Cassettes,News Papers etc.	4,030	4,475
Travel & Subsistence	4,353	1,658
IT and Office machines Maintenance	1,410	1,189
Telephone, Gas & Electricity	3,576	2,189
Rent	3,692	1,440
Conference & Training	9,892	3,460
Catering & Refreshment	4,380	1,997
Printing, Stationery, Photocopy, Postage	3,324	3,426
Bank Charges	778	341
Premises Expense	7,827	5,224
Professional Fee	1,954	0
Membership Fee	2,512	540
Mortgage Payment	11,645	9,555
Repair/Maintenance of Property	11,482	2,350
Depreciation	26,694	26,547
	<u>166,749</u>	<u>129,787</u>

## 6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year and in the previous years, no Trustee received remuneration, benefit in kind or had

## 7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bank Loan	<u>230,925</u>	<u>260,054</u>

The Bank loan is a commercial mortgage secured by charges on Eritrean Beth-el Church in London's premises at Unit 1 and 2 Oska Building, Empress Works, Boreham Road, N22 6SL.

**8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

<b>Cost</b>	<b>Office Equipment &amp; Musical Instrument</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Total</b>
At 01/01/2022	132,100	1,010,181	1,142,281
Additions	7,992		7,992
Disposal			0
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<b>140,093</b>	<b>1,010,181</b>	<b>1,150,274</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 01/01/2022	110,797	210,079	320,876
Additions	6,490	20,204	26,694
Disposal			0
<b>At 31/12/2022</b>	<b>117,287</b>	<b>230,283</b>	<b>347,569</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 01/01/2022	21,304	800,102	821,406
<b>At 31/12/2022</b>	<b>22,806</b>	<b>779,898</b>	<b>802,704</b>

**ERITREAN BETH-EL CHURCH IN LONDON**

England & Wales - Charity number 1083084

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# Accounts

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**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
of  
Eritrean Beth-El Church in London  
Year ended 31st of December 2021**

**Charity Number: 1083084**

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**Registered Charity Number:** 1083084

**Registered Office** Units 1 and 2 Oska Building  
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Boreham Road  
N22 6SL

**Board of Trustees**

Tibrah Hagos Ghiday	Chair
Goitom Gulay	Treasurer
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**Bankers** Barclays Bank  
Brixton Branch  
463-465 Brixton Road  
London  
SW9 8HL

## **Eritrean Beth-el church in London**

Trustees report

For the year Ended 31 December 2021

The Trustees present their report with financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Eritrean Beth-el Church in London is a Church and a Charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The management of the church is the responsibility of the Trustees who are appointed on a permanent basis. The Trustees meet on quarterly basis. The day to day management including the implementation of strategies approved by the Trustees is delegated to the Elders Board, whose members are elected by the members of the church on Five years interval. There are 3part-time pastors and 1 part-time office admin employed by the church.

### **TRUSTEES' INDUCTION AND TRAINING**

New Trustees are trained by a delegate of the chair using the charity commission guidance paper. Existing Trustees attend training from time to time to keep up-to-date with the latest requirements and best practice. In addition, informal learning continues to take place on an on-going basis.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees have the duty to identify and review the risk to which the church is exposed to and ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide a reasonable assurance against the identified risks. The Trustees have assessed all the major risks that may affect the operation of the church in the foreseeable future and are satisfied that there are systems in place to manage the exposure to them.

### **FREEHOLD PROPERTY**

The Trustees act as custodian (registered owners) of Eritrean Beth-el Church in London main freehold property which is used as its place of worship (Unit 1 and 2 Oska Building, empress work, Boreham Road, Turnpike Lane, London N22 6SL) and ( Sterling Road, Wood Green, N22 5BT) which is currently rented to another church as a place of worship.

## **OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

- 1) To advance religion among the Eritrean Community in United Kingdom by proclaiming the gospel of Lord Jesus Christ in their mother tongue.
- 2) To advance the education of the Eritrean Community in the United Kingdom in all matters relating to their indigenous and British culture and way of life.
- 3) To provide advice, information and practical assistance to those members of the Eritrean Community who are in need of such service.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

During 2021 The church operated its work and all services from its main church at Boreham Road in Turnpike lane wood green N22 (Sunday services and mid-week service), this building is also used as the base for small group prayer, bible study, support, advise, counselling and other small to medium size meetings. The board of Elders consists of 11 people with three of the leaders being paid a part time salary working for 16 hours a week.

The board of Elders works closely with the church trustees, the church Deacons and the wider church membership.

EBC is a member of Alliance of Eritrean churches in the United Kingdom and continues to work in partnership with all churches and carry out its outreach work within the United Kingdom.

### **Prayer Group**

The prayers activities were delivered in person once a month on the last Saturday of the month from 11am to 5pm and via conference call every morning Monday to Sunday from 5am to 7am and every evening Monday to Friday 7ppm to 9pm.

Many of our members were sick with Covid -19 and hospitalised, therefore at the request of their friends and family we held prayers anytime during day time. We had many phone calls needing urgent prayer requests and pray for them via zoom. After continuous prayer for those in hospitals we did a follow up by calling their family members. We held Prayers for our brothers and sisters who are in prison cell in Eritrea and all over the world because for their faith. Also Prayer for those who are in prison cells in Eritrea because of their political opinions and prisoners of conscious. Prayer for our people, our country Eritrea, Ethiopia and all our neighbours. Because of the demand we opened the zoom prayer line 24 hours so people can go and pray with their teams and families. These are the main points we have done in 2020.

### **Bethel Bible College (BBC)**

Bethel Bible College sessions has the aim of supporting students within the Eritrean community in their education. The college has three programmes Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses. The Certificate course is one year programme while the Diploma runs for two years ; and advanced diploma runs for three years.

The certificate sessions are conducted both face to face in branches of the college and distance learning modes, while the Advanced Diploma courses only through distance learning mode. For the distance learning mode synchronous learning with live video streaming of the face-to-face classroom are streamed to students across the World. Live Streamed video lessons are also loaded into Moodle Learning Management System for LMS for asynchronous learning, making the delivery of the content more flexible for students that cannot attend face-to-face sessions for many different reasons including distance and time restrictions.

Due to the pandemic, our college did not interrupt delivering its courses; however, the face to face sessions at the main college were switched to virtual classroom session on ZOOM. In many branches, however, continued their face to face sessions depending on the restrictions and regulations in respective countries. During this period bible theology, doctrinal, bible books, as well as Languages (Tigrinya & Biblical Greek), courses are given. The number of students increased yearly and the number who completed the courses successfully increased. Most of the students continued their studies into the Diploma courses. Currently, the college has branch colleges in five countries (Ethiopia-Addis Ababa, Kitchner & Edmonton- Canada, 3 branches in Khartoum, 1 in Kassala and 1 in Shegarab refugee camp in Sudan; recently Juba-South-Sudan and Kampala-Uganda on the pipe )

This academic year (2021) we have started with a greater number of students energised by the good previous students and the online streaming of the lessons. Currently 289 certificate, 73 diploma, 46 advanced diploma students from across the World are attending the college. Our plan is to expand The programme to reach more members of the community, especially people in disadvantaged areas such as those who cannot access to a theology course in the places, they reside including refugee camps.

### **CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

The Eritrean Bethel Children, Youth and Young Adults Centre of Excellence, exists to equip our children, youth and young adults to serve the purpose of God in their generation. We aspire to achieve this through preaching the eternal Gospel of Jesus Christ which is the power of God to transform life. We believe that this gospel message is not merely a body of truth, but the very power of God which bears holistic change for a person who encounters it. The heart of this transformation is to love God with the entirety of once being and to love once neighbour as oneself. Hence the immediate outcome of appropriate understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ are worship to God and reaching out the lost. We, therefore, aspire and work to train and raise young leaders who can carry out the divine imperative to grow both in quality and quantity.

We believe each member of the body of Christ (every believer) is bestowed with the gift to serve one another, as a good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10). The focus of the ministry, therefore, is to enhance the whole body to use the special gift each one has to edify the church so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. To achieve this we have extended time of prayer and worship, teaching, seminars and Bible studies. Above all we foster pastoral care at a personal level and we train the youth leadership to do so at the same time; which can in turn enable the whole saints to function as a body.

**How We Operate:-** The Sunday teaching and seminars and the Friday discussions and prayer sessions work in co-ordination on one theme. Whatever is taught on Sunday it will be expounded, reflected on, and prayed on the corresponding Friday gathering. Every Friday in addition to communal worship and prayer session there is a small group discussion led by designated leaders. The primary aim of this program is to offer the members with clear understanding of the spiritual truth taught and its practical application into daily life.

From March 20 to December 20 during the pandemic the Youth service had to adjust the way it works and stopped all face to face contact with meetings and other fellowship being carried out via Zoom Virtually. The Friday bible study, Sunday service and any other activities were carried out via this medium.

We had been training the youth since 2019 to take more responsibilities to serve and this has finally been achieved this year. Two of them help in the media and 9 of them serve in Sunday school. Most of all, they feel ownership of the Church. We also targeted different groups of youth and met them individually to assess their needs and provide them support and encouragement as necessary and we continue to support many individuals. We had prayer and fasting frequently and we have experienced the power of God and unified us very well.

We taught them Salvation extensively by dividing them into four groups according to their spiritual maturity for two months, which was good, however, the desired result is yet to be met. Summer outing to Wales was fantastic, we had fun activities, taught them about how they should view Sex and having sexual feelings towards the opposite sex is not a sin in itself rather to act on the feeling on a wrong way is sin. We also discussed Masturbation, pornography etc. Many of them were delivered: some of them through teaching and some of them demons were casted out of them.

As most of you are aware, without the Bible Study, Friday morning one to one prayer/counselling sessions, we have a 12:00 o'clock and 10:00 a.m session. The 10:00 a.m session is where we spend time teaching, discussing and praying with the shepherds. This fellowship encouraged the saints to dig deeper in every aspect of life, especially when it comes to God and the knowledge of Him in his word. They have grown closer to the Lord in unimaginable ways and feel confident to defend their faith. They actively participate in prayer, worship for long hours, prophecy, receiving songs from the Lord and deliverance. The 10:00 a.m teaching cover different topics Sin, the image of man : the fallen Man, the new man, Christ the High Priest, the advocate, the one who was tempted yet without sin, the mediator of the new covenant, and the Character of God and inerrancy of the bible, Trinity ...etc.

### **Woman ministry**

The churches woman's ministry operates from four zones of London, East, west, North and South London. The focus of this ministry includes supporting the vulnerable through phone call and visits as well as prayer and having fellowship.

A joint meeting of all the woman within the church is carried out four times a year at the main church's premises. In addition, a monthly zone meeting / fellowship also takes place by hiring local halls.

The woman's ministry is also active in supporting bereaved families and those who are in hospital and most vulnerable members of the church. This service became more relevant and important during the pandemic as a number of the older members of the church were house bound and needed support. The woman's ministry increased their frequency of phone calls and other means of checking on those who are vulnerable and successfully supported a number of them during this period.

### **Department of Missions**

Bethel Church has had a Department for Missions since 2002. The church leadership believed that Bethel should be at the forefront of God's work of salvation through missions. To this end, various practical measures were taken to facilitate its vision. The Department has been sending short-term missionaries to the Horn of Africa for two decades. These include countries such as Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Djibouti.

The short-term mission teams have been engaged in evangelistic campaigns involving several local churches in Khartoum. During the evangelistic campaign, the appropriate trainings were given to members of the churches to do personal evangelistic work prior to the main campaign week. Others were provided with appropriate trainings so that they might help the newly converted people. Evangelistic literature has been prepared and distributed in the targeted area.

Bethel Church believes that it has a divine mandate to address not only people's spiritual needs, but also its material needs. Therefore, the church has had a feeding program to the desperate people, especially those in Sudan. This particular scheme has helped hundreds of people with food, clothing and other essential materials. The recipients of the love gift provided by the church were grateful, and many of them saw God's love in action and responded to the evangelistic message positively

The evangelistic outreaches in the Horn of Africa, and especially in Sudan were aimed at two national groups; these were mainly Ethiopians, Eritreans refugees residing in Khartoum. The churches in Khartoum were convinced that unity is of utmost importance, especially if evangelism and mission work is to be carried out successfully. And by God's sheer grace and mercy the work of mission has had a greater impact in the capital Khartoum. Many people, who previously were indifferent to the Gospel message, responded positively once they saw God's healing power and the ministry of exorcism. It is estimated that during the ten years period between 2004-2014 an estimated 2000 people have come forward to receive Jesus as their saviour, and a great majority of them were baptized in water.

Bethel church's mission among the Eritrean refugees in Northern Ethiopia had made a significant impact. Unlike in Sudan however, here a different approach was used to carry out the missional mandate. The reason behind implementing a new approach was because of the delicate security situation around the camps. In addition, some of the Eritrean Orthodox church leaders in the camps opposed the evangelistic campaigns. Therefore, the mission's team from Bethel and the local evangelical churches devised a new approach. Instead of holding mass evangelistic meetings, they used small group evangelistic programs. Moreover, the charity work to help the needy refugees had a prominent role in opening up a relationship with the locals. These new approach opened a greater door of opportunity for the Gospel work.

### **Family Ministry**

The Family ministry focuses on reviving & restorative message of the everlasting gospel within the context of family living. To affirm and strengthen every Christian family as a primary discipline unit. To enable parents & families to increase the likelihood of successful transference of Christian values to the next generation. To empower families for winsome witness and to create a "family of God" experience in Eritrean Bethel Church.

In this year 2021, there was no family activities, as some Covid restriction were still in place and also some members in the role of leadership were not present to conduct or arrange activities.

### **Worship Team**

This particular department consists of more than 20 members although on average only 10-12 people have been serving every Sunday service. The reason behind this low turn will be disclosed below in this document. Choir leadership is responsible for the day to day administration and technical team are responsible for the worship and technical aspects of the service.

Recruiting new choir members involves candidates passing mandatory selection process and entails the following.

1. Singing/vocal test sessions
2. Attending practice sessions for 90 days

The body responsible for facilitating the above is technical team. Duties of technical team also includes selection process of new worship leaders, microphone allocation and maintaining quality of sound PA system. Due to the long term effects of the pandemic technical team have not had the chance to fulfil the outstanding training/workshop sessions they had in plan. Similarly choir leadership has not had the opportunity to positively capitalise on the good relationship it has with other Eritrean churches in London.

The main aim of the worship ministry is to lead worship on Sunday as well as during prayer and other special services. The Worship Ministry serves beyond Bethel Eritrean Church's congregation, to people all over the world through social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook. Throughout the period mentioned the team consistently gathered for practice sessions every Tuesday and also served on Sunday mornings. We also commenced having fellowship dinner time on Tuesday evenings after practice sessions intermittently on non-obligatory basis, and this had positive impact in the team's bond and created togetherness. We also held prayer and fasting meetings intermittently.

We also encouraged choir members to write their own songs in order to make the most of the grace that was given to us by God almighty. This evidently lifted the confidence of the team and enhanced sense of belonging. Worship leaders also have been tasked to select new songs of members and include them in the worship songs. We aim to enshrine this practice in our worship service God willing for months and years to come. This will be one of our legacies. We also had a separate lunch fellowship time in October and held informal discussions about the service and our wellbeing/welfare. Prior to this meeting formal annual choir members meeting was also held in August where we negotiated and outlined proposals collectively, and agreed on action plans.

The low turn attendance reasons mentioned above are for the following reasons

1. Extended maternity leave
2. Relocation
3. Work commitments

We are in the process of launching new recruitment opportunities and, the joiner pack/criteria is currently under review and will subsequently be amended. Additionally we want to train new worship leaders in the near future.

## **Media Ministry**

The primary mission of Bethel Eritrean Church is to spread the gospel message of Jesus Christ. That said, no other moment in history has offered as many possible channels for that message to travel through into the hearts and lives of people everywhere. It is also true that Bethel church has used media technologies.

However, media consumption patterns have changed so much in recent times that it requires a shift in thinking away from the traditional media model to more of a hybrid media model, which gives increasingly more weight to emerging media platforms such as the Internet and mobile technologies.

YouTube is the leading video sharing Web site where Bethel church has its own “channel” to populate with content. More than 100 million people spend time on YouTube every month—a sizable congregation by any estimation. Bethel church YouTube channel received a variety of comments on the content uploaded, not all of it positive; but be encouraged that the messages are being viewed by those who, many times, need to hear them most.

This ministry not only provides the technical support required for our worship (choir), but also records various events, teachings and sermons, which are made available online and live Streaming on our You Tube and web site.

Before lockdown, Bethel Eritrean Church were already very active on social media. since lockdown, video conferencing via Zoom, email, WhatsApp and the Facebook have become core tools for us to effectively communicate within our team and congregation. With the technology already there, it meant we were able to quickly adapt to online communication. Facebook and Zoom have also been key ways in which congregations have kept in touch during the pandemic.

This global pandemic has awoken us to the possibility of digital ministry. Many churches were forced online as their buildings were shut. Bethel Church discovered that through the use of digital media and social channels we could reach many more people with the good news of Jesus. It has been a challenging time for most as they have wrestled with this brave new world. With COVID-19 vaccines making way for looser recommendations around distancing and masking, many congregations have been able to get back to normal operations again. But some are not rushing to return to how things were, opting instead to rethink how and why they gather. During the first months of the year, fewer than half of regular churchgoers made it to an in-person service. The pandemic has accelerated people’s comings and goings and has required new strategies to welcome and assimilate new members into the church community. These tasks have been complicated by evolving COVID-19 precautions and the challenge of identifying who still belongs to the church, when many continue to worship online.

Hybrid church is an attempt to bring together the traditional, in-person church, where people gather in a building with online church, where people gather virtually.

Media Team rose to that challenge by using Zoom to hold virtual services and internet platforms to proclaim the Gospel has created a new dynamic and re-energised.

To keep it simple, every Sunday morning at 10.30 AM we sent a WhatsApp message with a direct link to where our service is being streamed. Whichever platform we broadcast to, we would always upload a copy of that to our YouTube and Facebook pages to ensure any newcomers would always stumble across our latest service.

**How do we anticipate the changing realities that new media brings, and adapt in this season and beyond for the benefit of the Kingdom?**

1. **Sunday Worship:** Bethel Eritrean church had to temporarily suspend our activities, and find new ways of reaching out to congregations, and the most vulnerable. In many cases, our church expanded existing worship to online networks using You tube live, Face book, Website and different forms of social media. This is an excellent way to reach out to those who are unable to be present Sunday Worship Service live video will be streaming out on the Facebook page, website and YouTube channel every Sunday @ 10:30 am
2. **Prayer:** Prayer Service setup on Zoom and Conference Call Dialup every morning of the week
3. **Biblical Discussion:** Every Tuesday evening the church Elders air live discussion on different topics such as Growing in spiritual life, Spiritual, church growth and social issues by Inviting different speakers throughout the world. These Discussion also aired on MaEzer seamy Satellite TV.
4. **Bible study:** groups have continued to meet (primarily via Zoom). Second, they have remained committed to studying the Bible by using an ongoing Bible study series provided by the leaders at the church.

Finally, Hybrid worship, a blended approach to in-person and online ministry, has become an effective way to reach both audiences. Hybrid ministry is the way for the future that does not have to be burdensome or limited to Sundays. It may be that the goal of the hybrid church is not just about offering two worship options, but offering ways of engaging, discipleship, teaching, and reaching the community that has never before in history been a possibility. Doing Hybrid ministry alone is a heavy load for anyone. When you have a solid media team like us, Bethel church can make a difference for Christ

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees are aware of the requirements of the charity to have a Reserve policy and aim to maintain a target balance of three months operation costs at any time to ensure on going delivery of its charitable objectives.

### **Principal Funding**

This is provided mainly through voluntary tithes and offerings by members and through gifts aid scheme. Pledges are also taken for specific projects whenever needed.

### **Financial Review**

Eritrean Beth-el Church London had incoming resources of £186,125 as shown on the statement of financial activities. Resources expended in undertaking its charitable activities amounted to £129,787 resulting in a surplus of £56,337. All the church assets are held for the furtherance of its objectives.

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees in determining how best to pursue these objectives, have taken on board guidance from Charity Commission in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011, including the guidance on the Advancement of Religion for public benefit.

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally accepted Accounting Practice.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust of the deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently;
- observe the method and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the basis of current concerns unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at any time and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports ) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



Goitom S Mebrahtu

Date: 23/10/22

I report on the account of Eritrean Beth-el Church in London for the year ended 31 December 2021 set out on pages 2 to 20.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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.

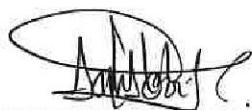
**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charity Act ;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, 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.



**Independent examiner**

Samson Amanuel Menghistu  
3 Cumberland Drive Dartford DA1 1NB

**Eritrean Beth-el Church in London**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the year Ended 31 December 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>			
Incoming Resources from charitable activities:	3	116,641	99,399
Activities for generating funds	2	3,197	9,121
Other incoming resources	4	66,287	80,451
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>186,125</b>	<b>188,971</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>			
Charitable activities	5	129,787	135,631
<b>Total resource expended</b>		<b>129,787</b>	<b>135,631</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing)resources for the year/ Net income / (expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>56,337</b>	<b>53,340</b>
Total funds brought forward		<b>773,347</b>	<b>720,007</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>829,684</b>	<b>773,347</b>


The statements of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate stamen of total recognised gains and losses has note been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

**Eritrean Beth-el Church in London**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**At 31 December 2021**

		2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
	<b>Notes</b>				
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	8		821,406		839,313
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		266,224		227,194	
Prepayment		2,108			
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
amounts fallings due within one year				<u>2431.51</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>268,332</u>		<u>224,762</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSET LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			1,089,738		1,064,075
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7		<u>-260,054</u>		<u>-290,728</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			829,684		773,347
<b>FUNDS</b>					
General Purpose Fund			<u>829,684</u>		<u>773,347</u>

The Financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees on 16 October 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

 23-10-22

Goitom Gulay ( Treasurer)

The notes from Page 17 to 20 forms part of these financial statements

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), The Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the amounts are realised and can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Church collections and gifts to the church are recognised as income when received.

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when on receipts.

### **Tax reclaim on donations and gifts**

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA on accruals basis.

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the Church or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distribution by the Church.

### **Donated services**

The Charity does not quantify and include services provided by the volunteers in the financial statement as the costs of collecting such data is considered to be more than any benefit to the charity. The value of the voluntary help is however described in the trustees, annual report.

### **Investment income , gains and losses**

Investment income is included in the financial statements when received. Gains and losses on sale of investments or resulting from revaluation of investments are determined at point of disposal or revaluation. Gains or losses arising at the point of revaluation are not included in the accounts.

**Resources expended**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property (Building)- 2% straight line basis

Musical instruments and office equipment - 25% Reducing balance basis

**2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUND**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Building Fund	300	6,365
Fund raising Sales	2,897	2,756
	<u>3,197</u>	<u>9,121</u>

**3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Tithes and Offerings	104,958	85,273
Tax reclaimed on Gift Aids	11,683	14,127
	<u>116,641</u>	<u>99,400</u>

**4. OTHER INCOME**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Rent	3,940	4,050
Deposit Interest	10	144
Refund	888	1,149
Contribution	836	649
Gift	3,963	40
Tuition Fee	56,651	62,993
HMRC Covid Grant	0	11,426
	<u>66,287</u>	<u>80,451</u>

**5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Payment for the Ministers	46,799.80	46,989
PAYE and NI	7,074.66	4,258
Pension	245.43	
Office Materials	2,059.21	2,777
Insurance	1,288.24	1,211
Donation & Gifts	7,929.58	15,731
Bible,Cassettes,News Papers etc.	4,475.36	7,389
Travel & Subsistence	1,658.02	3,441
IT and Office machines Maintenance	1,188.59	455
Telephone, Gas & Electricity	2,188.57	5,322
Rent	1,440.04	
Conference & Training	3,460.00	
Catering & Refreshment	1,997.00	1,095
Printing, Stationery, Photocopy, Postage	3,426.41	3,365
Bank Charges	340.58	670
Premises Expense	5,224.17	3,209
Professional Fee	0.00	1,440
Membership Fee	540.00	290
Mortgage Payment	9,554.91	11,088
Repair/Maintenance of Property	2,350.00	363
Depreciation	26,546.79	26,539
	<u>129,787</u>	<u>135,631</u>

**6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

During the year and in the previous years, no Trustee received remuneration, benefit in kind or had

**7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bank Loan	<u>260,054</u>	<u>290,728</u>

The Bank loan is a commercial mortgage secured by charges on Eritrean Beth-el Church in London's premises at Unit 1 and 2 Oska Building, Empress Works, Boreham Road, N22 6SL.

**8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

<b>Cost</b>	<b>Office Equipment &amp; Musical Instrument</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Total</b>
At 01/01/2021	123,461	1,010,181	1,133,642
Additions	8,640		8,640
Disposal			0
	<b>1</b>		
	<b><u>132,100</u></b>	<b><u>1,010,181</u></b>	<b><u>1,142,281</u></b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 01/01/2021	104,454	189,875	294,329
Additions	6,343	20,204	26,547
Disposal			0
<b>At 31/12/2021</b>	<b><u>110,797</u></b>	<b><u>210,079</u></b>	<b><u>320,876</u></b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 01/01/2021	<u>19,007</u>	<u>820,306</u>	<u>839,313</u>
<b>At 31/12/2021</b>	<b><u>21,304</u></b>	<b><u>800,102</u></b>	<b><u>821,406</u></b>

**ERITREAN BETH-EL CHURCH IN LONDON**

England & Wales - Charity number 1083084

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# Accounts

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**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
of  
Eritrean Beth-El Church in London  
Year ended 31st of December 2020**

**Charity Number: 1083084**

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**Registered Charity Number:** 1083084

**Registered Office** Units 1 and 2 Oska Building  
Empress Works  
Boreham Road  
N22 6SL

**Board of Trustees**

Tibrah Hagos Ghiday	Chair
Goitom Gulay	Treasurer
Goitom S Mebrahtu	Secretary
Asheber Tesfay	
Nathnael Yemane	
Biniam Habtom	
Musie Habte	

**Bankers** Barclays Bank  
Brixton Branch  
463-465 Brixton Road  
London  
SW9 8HL

## **Eritrean Beth-el church in London**

Trustees report

For the year Ended 31 December 2020

The Trustees present their report with financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2019. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Eritrean Beth-el Church in London is a Church and a Charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The management of the church is the responsibility of the Trustees who are appointed on a permanent basis. The Trustees meet on quarterly basis. The day to day management including the implementation of strategies approved by the Trustees is delegated to the Elders Board, whose members are elected by the members of the church on Five years interval. There are 3part-time pastors and 1 part-time office admin employed by the church.

### **TRUSTEES' INDUCTION AND TRAINING**

New Trustees are trained by a delegate of the chair using the charity commission guidance paper. Existing Trustees attend training from time to time to keep up-to-date with the latest requirements and best practice. In addition, informal learning continues to take place on an on-going basis.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees have the duty to identify and review the risk to which the church is exposed to and ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide a reasonable assurance against the identified risks. The Trustees have assessed all the major risks that may affect the operation of the church in the foreseeable future and are satisfied that there are systems in place to manage the exposure to them.

### **FREEHOLD PROPERTY**

The Trustees act as custodian (registered owners) of Eritrean Beth-el Church in London main freehold property which is used as its place of worship (Unit 1 and 2 Oska Building, empress work, Boreham Road, Turnpike Lane, London N22 6SL) and ( Sterling Road, Wood Green, N22 5BT) which is currently rented to another church as a place of worship.

## **OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

- 1) To advance religion among the Eritrean Community in United Kingdom by proclaiming the gospel of Lord Jesus Christ in their mother tongue.
- 2) To advance the education of the Eritrean Community in the United Kingdom in all matters relating to their indigenous and British culture and way of life.
- 3) To provide advice, information and practical assistance to those members of the Eritrean Community who are in need of such service.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

During 2020 The church operated its work and all services from its main church at Boreham Road in Turnpike lane wood green N22 (Sunday services and mid-week service), this building is also used as the base for small group prayer, bible study, support, advise, counselling and other small to medium size meetings. The board of Elders consists of 11 people with three of the leaders being paid a part time salary working for 16 hours a week.

The board of Elders works closely with the church trustees, the church Deacons and the wider church membership.

EBC is a member of Alliance of Eritrean churches in the United Kingdom and continues to work in partnership with all churches and carry out its outreach work within the United Kingdom.

### **Prayer Group**

In January and February, the prayers activities were delivered in person once a month on the last Saturday of the month from 11am to 5pm and via conference call every morning Monday to Sunday from 5am to 7am and every evening Monday to Friday 7pm to 9pm. However due to the Covid 19 pandemic lockdown from March to December, all the prayer activities were delivered via Zoom

Comparing to the previous years the prayer line and intercession department (the prayer team) were very busy in 2020. We had prayers every day from 5am to 7am in the morning, however there were times that the prayer continued until 9am because member wanted to keep praying. Also on the evening prayer from 7pm to 9pm, at times the prayer would stay until 10pm or 11pm because of demands.

## **Eritrean Beth-el Church in London**

Trustees report - continued

For the year Ended 31 December 2020

Many of our members were sick with Covid -19 and hospitalised, therefore at the request of their friends and family we held prayers anytime during day time. We had many phone calls needing urgent prayer requests and pray for them via zoom. After continuous prayer for those in hospitals we did a follow up by calling their family members. We held Prayers for our brothers and sisters who are in prison cell in Eritrea and all over the world because for their faith. Also Prayer for those who are in prison cells in Eritrea because of their political opinions and prisoners of conscious. Prayer for our people, our country Eritrea, Ethiopia and all our neighbours. Because of the demand we opened the zoom prayer line 24 hours so people can go and pray with their teams and families. These are the main points we have done in 2020.

### **Bethel Bible College (BBC)**

Bethel Bible College sessions has the aim of supporting students within the Eritrean community in their education. The college has two programmes Certificate and Diploma courses. The Certificate course is one year programme while the Diploma runs for two years.

The courses are conducted both face to face in branches of the college, including in United Kingdom (London and Birmingham), in Canada (Kitchener), in Germany (Koln), in Holland (Aarhus), in Switzerland (Aarau) and in Sweden (Stockholm); as well as distance learning modes. For the distance learning mode synchronous learning with live video streaming of the face-to-face classroom are streamed to students across the World via Moodle Learning Management System. The Live Streamed video lessons are also being recorded and loaded into Moodle Learning Management System (LMS) for a synchronous learning; making the delivery of the content more flexible for students, who are unable to attend the face-to-face sessions for many different reasons including distance and time restrictions.

Due to the pandemic, our college did not interrupt delivering its courses; however, the face to face sessions at the main college in London, United Kingdom and the branches in the following countries including Germany (Koln), Holland (Aarhus), Switzerland (Aarau) and Sweden (Stockholm), were switched to virtual classroom session on ZOOM. In one branch (Kitchener, Canada) however, continued their face to face sessions depending on the restrictions and regulations in respective country. Also we had to close down the Birmingham branch in United Kingdom due to an administrative issues.

During this period bible theology, doctrinal, bible books, as well as Languages (such as Tigrinya & Biblical Greek), courses are given. The number of students enrolling to the Certificate course and who complete the course successfully increases every year. Most of the students who completed the Certificate course successfully, continue to study the Diploma course.

This academic year (2020) we have started with a greater number of students energised by the good previous students and the online streaming of the lessons. Currently 289 Certificate, 73 Diploma, 46 Advanced Diploma students from across the World are attending the college. Our plan is to expand the programme to reach more members of the community, especially people in disadvantaged areas such as those who cannot access to a theology course in the places, they reside including refugee camps.

In academic Year 2021, the college has a plan open more branches in the following countries including, in Ethiopia (Addis Ababa), in Sudan (Khartoum, Kassala and 1 in Shagarab refugee camp, Juba-South-Sudan and in Uganda (Kampala on the pipe).

### **Youth and Children Ministry**

The majority of the congregation consists of young families and a large number of the congregation is also involved in fostering children and young people in care. Currently the church has around 120 children and young people among its congregation. There are four groups or Sunday school to cater for this and the youth and young people meet each Sunday from 2 pm to 5pm immediately after the main service at the church premises.

The youth service also has Friday bible study class held between 7- 9pm each week. This service mainly caters for young people 16 plus as many of them come from across London and the southeast. The teaching covered during this period includes, discipline and self-control, baptism of water and spirit and deliverance.

During the year 2020 the youth service has developed a mentoring project whereby the older youth who are currently at university are linked with the churches younger group in order to support and engage them with their academic studies.

From March 20 to December 20 during the pandemic the Youth service had to adjust the way it works and stopped all face to face contact with meetings and other fellowship being carried out via Zoom Virtually. The Friday bible study, Sunday service and any other activities were carried out via this medium.

Moving the services to virtual had its advantage and disadvantage, while on one hand the participation of the Youth increased in number and some who may not have been able to join the face-to-face meeting started joining, on the other hand the young people stated that they missed meeting each other and having fellowship in the Norman way.

### **Woman ministry**

The churches woman's ministry operates from four zones of London, East, west, North and South London. The focus of this ministry includes supporting the vulnerable through phone call and visits as well as prayer and having fellowship.

A joint meeting of all the woman within the church is carried out four times a year at the main church's premises. In addition, a monthly zone meeting / fellowship also takes place by hiring local halls.

The woman's ministry is also active in supporting bereaved families and those who are in hospital and most vulnerable members of the church. This service became more relevant and important during the pandemic as a number of the older members of the church were house bound and needed support. The woman's ministry increased their frequency of phone calls and other means of checking on those who are vulnerable and successfully supported a number of them during this period.

From March 20 to December 20 all services were carried out virtually. During May 2020 a virtual woman's conference was carried out that allowed several women from across the world to join

### **Sunday School**

Sunday School has different age groups, 3-5 Bubbles, 5-8 Splash, 8-11 Xstream, 11-14 Grid, 14+ Youth. There are more than one hundred children of all age groups. The church accommodates classrooms for each age group with average of 30 children per classroom.

When the lockdown was imposed at the beginning of March 2020, the Sunday school service did not resume until August of the same year. In August 2020, the Sunday schools began broadcasting Sunday school service every Sunday for approximately one hour. The service consists of worship songs, arts and crafts, a short sermon, biblical question and answer session. This gives the children a very good opportunity to participate and be interactive with their peers. Each week a topic will be given to the children who would like to participate and they would prepare a short video on the given topic and send it to the media team. The service was broadcasted on YouTube and many families around the world benefited from it, not only the local church.

Even though we were not able to see each other face to face, the Sunday school teachers organised a zoom meeting with the children for a catch-up and fun activities for more than one occasion. During the zoom meeting, we get to listen to the children how the lockdown has affected them, what they would like to do, what they miss most. Also organised a bit of a fun activity.

When the church was allowed for small gatherings, the youth started to meet every Sunday at the church premises, adhering to social distancing and face covering. The church premises were clearly marked with social distancing signs and one-way system.

### **Mission Department**

The Mission Department has not been very active for the past 18 months. This is due to the Corona Virus. All trips to mission fields in the Horn of Africa has been suspended until late this year.

### **Family Ministry**

The Family Ministry have had to suspend all their activities due to Covid 19 lockdown.

### **Worship Team**

The choir activities were as usual in Jan and Feb 2020, including in person practice every Tuesday evening from 7pm to 9pm and Sunday morning from 9:30am to 10:30am at the church premises. Then the regular Sunday church services from 11am to 1pm. However due to the global pandemic and domestic restrictions our choir practise sessions and church services were disrupted, hence we set up weekly zoom online prayer meetings on Saturdays. In regards to serving our community through worship songs we introduced a service scheme on voluntary basis. Therefore choir members met in small groups of 5-6 and recorded songs in church. Those recordings were then broadcasted on the church YouTube channel every Sunday morning. As the government started to ease the restrictions from Oct/2020 we commenced serving live in church premises in small groups in accordance to the government restriction rules.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees are aware of the requirements of the charity to have a Reserve policy and aim to maintain a target balance of three months operation costs at any time to ensure on going delivery of its charitable objectives.

### **Principal Funding**

This is provided mainly through voluntary tithes and offerings by members and through gifts aid scheme. Pledges are also taken for specific projects whenever needed.

### **Financial Review**

Eritrean Beth-el Church London had incoming resources of £188,971 as shown on the statement of financial activities. Resources expended in undertaking its charitable activities amounted to £135,631 resulting in a surplus of £53,340. All the church assets are held for the furtherance of its objectives.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees in determining how best to pursue these objectives, have taken on board guidance from Charity Commission in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011, including the guidance on the Advancement of Religion for public benefit.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally accepted Accounting Practice.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust of the deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently;
- observe the method and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the basis of current concerns unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at any time and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports ) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



Goitom S Mebrahtu

Date: 24/10/21

I report on the account of Eritrean Beth-el Church in London for the year ended 31 December 2020 set out on pages 2 to 12.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charity Act ;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, 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.



**Independent examiner**

Dawit Araya

7 Hasted Close DA9 9HS

**Eritrean Beth-el Church in London**  
Statement of Financial Activities  
For the year Ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	General funds 2020 £	2019 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>			
Incoming Resources from charitable activities:	3	99,399	128,947
Activities for generating funds	2	9,121	3,335
Other incoming resources	4	<u>80,451</u>	<u>84,672</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b><u>188,971</u></b>	<b><u>216,954</u></b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>			
Charitable activities	5	135,631	153,338
<b>Total resource expended</b>		<b><u>135,631</u></b>	<b><u>153,338</u></b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing)resources for the year/ Net income / (expenditure) for the year</b>		53,340	63,616
Total funds brought forward		<u>720,007</u>	<u>656,391</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b><u>773,347</u></b>	<b><u>720,007</u></b>

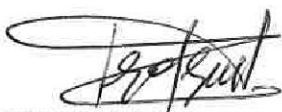
The statements of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

**Eritrean Beth-el Church in London**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**At 31 December 2020**

		2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
	<b>Notes</b>				
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	8		839,313		865,852
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		227,194		177,695	
Prepayment					
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
amounts fallings due within one year		2431.51		<u>3089.14</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>224,762</u>		<u>174,606</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSET LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			1,064,075		1,040,458
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7		<u>-290,728</u>		<u>-320,451</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			773,347		720,007
<b>FUNDS</b>					
General Purpose Fund			<u>773,347</u>		<u>720,007</u>

The Financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees on 24 October 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:



Goitom Gulay ( Treasurer)

The notes from Page 13 to 16 forms part of these financial statements

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), The Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the amounts are realised and can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Church collections and gifts to the church are recognised as income when received.

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when on receipts.

### **Tax reclaim on donations and gifts**

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA on accruals basis.

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the Church or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distribution by the Church.

### **Donated services**

The Charity does not quantify and include services provided by the volunteers in the financial statement as the costs of collecting such data is considered to be more than any benefit to the charity. The value of the voluntary help is however described in the trustees, annual report.

### **Investment income , gains and losses**

Investment income is included in the financial statements when received. Gains and losses on sale of investments or resulting from revaluation of investments are determined at point of disposal or revaluation. Gains or losses arising at the point of revaluation are not included in the accounts.

**Resources expended**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property (Building)- 2% straight line basis

Musical instruments and office equipment - 25% Reducing balance basis

**2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUND**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Building Fund	6,365	2,908
Fund raising Sales	2,756	427
	<u>9,121</u>	<u>3,335</u>

**3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Tithes and Offerings	85,273	118,404
Tax reclaimed on Gift Aids	14,127	10,542
	<u>99,399</u>	<u>128,946</u>

**4. OTHER INCOME**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Rent	4,050	23,460
Deposit Interest	144	186
Refund	1,149	0
Contribution	649	11,677
Gift	40	0
Tuition Fee	62,993	49,349
HMRC Covid Grant	11,426	
	<u>80,451</u>	<u>84,672</u>

**5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Payment for the Ministers	46,989.05	40,450
PAYE and NI	4,258.20	1,302
Office Materials	2,777.20	4,668
Insurance	1,210.67	1,164
Donation & Gifts	15,731.38	7,862
Bible,Cassettes,News Papers etc.	7,389.00	8,372
Travel & Subsistence	3,440.54	3,746
IT and Office machines Maintenance	454.85	2,876
Telephone, Gas & Electricity	5,321.74	5,069
Conference & Training		17,404
Catering & Refreshment	1,095.24	5,606
Printing, Stationery, Photocopy, Postage	3,364.70	4,796
Bank Charges	669.55	1,300
Premises Expense	3,209.05	3,852
Professional Fee	1,440.00	
Membership Fee	290.00	940
Mortgage Payment	11,087.81	13,730
Repair/Maintenance of Property	363.00	2,584
Depreciation	26,539.27	27,618
	<u>135,631</u>	<u>153,338</u>

**6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

During the year and in the previous years, no Trustee received remuneration, benefit in kind or had

**7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Bank Loan	<u>290,728</u>	<u>320,451</u>

The Bank loan is a commercial mortgage secured by charges on Eritrean Beth-el Church in London's premises at Unit 1 and 2 Oska Building, Empress Works, Boreham Road, N22 6SL.

**8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

<b>Cost</b>	<b>Office Equipment &amp; Musical Instrument</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Total</b>
At 01/01/2020	123,461	1,010,181	1,133,642
Additions	0		0
Disposal			0
<b>At 31/12/2020</b>	<b>123,461</b>	<b>1,010,181</b>	<b>1,133,642</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 01/01/2020	98,118	169,672	267,790
Additions	6,336	20,204	26,539
Disposal			0
<b>At 31/12/2020</b>	<b>104,454</b>	<b>189,875</b>	<b>294,329</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 01/01/2020	21,754	860,713	
<b>At 31/12/2020</b>	<b>19,007</b>	<b>820,306</b>	<b>839,313</b>