

Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

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Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia – *giving hope, transforming lives*

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Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1175880

Trustees' Annual Report - 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

1. Introduction – 10th Anniversary Report

When Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia was founded ten years ago Ethiopia was wrestling with conflict, famine, drought, locusts and debt default. Today Ethiopia is wrestling with conflict, famine, drought, locusts and debt default – no point helping really as nothing changes does it? Except, for the 190 girls and boys we care for the world has transformed. With food in their bellies, clothes on their backs, a roof over their heads a desk in a classroom and access to healthcare when sick the nuts and bolts are in place and every one of these children is seizing the opportunity they have been given with both hands. We now have university and college graduates, trained professionals and independent families in safe and secure homes looking to the future with hope – the days spent begging in the street a distant memory.

This report covers just some of these success stories and with a view to building on the experience of our first ten years we are keen to progress the initiatives that will move our work to the next level. During 2024/25 Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia has assessed and delivered several community-wide projects. However, expanding our remit in this way will never be at the expense of care for the child. The aim will always be to a) provide further security for the girls and boys we currently help and b) enable us to take more children off the streets. Ultimately the challenge is to be prepared for a tomorrow that can bring whatever it wants and for Jitu, Bereket, Yohannes and all the children we care for to be ready and able to not just react to but determine the outcome of the day.

As trustees we manage the operation and oversee the delivery of the work in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines. **Critically we ensure that every penny donated goes to support the girls and boys we care for.** In essence the strength and integrity of our partnership with families, volunteers and donors is paramount and this is evidenced by the progress to independence of children who were once begging on the street and the long-term support of donors who have underpinned our work since 2015. Examples of this being played out are covered in the pages of this report.

In summary the progress of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia and, more importantly, the livelihoods of the families we care for is built on the loyalty of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers in Ethiopia. In addition to benevolent and steadfastly loyal people supporting our work on an individual basis we have benefited from and are grateful for the encouragement and generosity of the members of a growing number of organisations:

- AR Hair & Beauty Lounge, Arundel
- Barclays Bank, Derby
- BBC Radio Derby
- BBC Radio Sheffield
- Belle Vie - Chesterfield
- Brimington Women's Group
- Cardiff Progress Team, Australia
- Central Methodist Church, Chesterfield
- Chesterfield Football Club
- Chesterfield Library
- Connelly Court residents
- Copy and Print, Chesterfield
- Cumbria Overseas Aid Trust
- Derbyshire Libraries, Matlock
- Dore and Totley United Reformed Church
- Elastic FM
- Grassmoor Women's Institute
- Halesowen Stitch Club, West Midlands
- Holymoorside Ladies Group
- Imperial Voice Radio, Bath
- Jenny Meadows Yoga Club
- Loundsley Green Mothers' Union
- Max Spielmann – Tesco and Chesterfield outlets
- Milestone Financial Planning
- Mitcham Mothers' Union
- Pilsley Community Group
- Quinton Methodist Church, Birmingham
- Reflections magazine
- Rich In Time, Leeds
- ROE Developments (UK) Ltd
- S40 magazine
- Salem Chapel, Wingerworth
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Staveley Seniors Group
- Storrs Electrical Ltd
- St Paul's Church, Hasland
- St Peter & St Paul – Mitcham Parish Church, London

- St Thomas' Church, Brampton
- Sutton African and Caribbean Cultural Organisation, London
- The 50+ Inspired Group
- The Co-operative Social Group
- The Derbyshire Times
- The Inner Wheel Club of Clay Cross
- The Oddfellows, Chesterfield
- The Ragged School, Chesterfield
- The Rotary Club of Addis Ababa
- The Rotary Club of Aireborough
- The Rotary Club of Bolsover
- The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize
- The Rotary Club of Chesterfield
- The Rotary Club of York Ainsty
- Thom's Blokes
- Treasure Trove Fairs
- TWIST magazine
- Wingerworth Women's Institute

On behalf of the trustees, volunteers and families of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia – thank you. Be in no doubt, these children can prepare with hope for the day rather than fear for the night because of you.

2. Background, Context and Guiding Principles

- *the acronym 'SCH' in the text refers to Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia*

As covered in previous reports the tension, threats, skirmishes and outright conflict continues to feature in Ethiopia's daily news. The Pretoria peace agreement is holding by the skin of its teeth as the federal governments moves to ban the Tigray signatories and its activities.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) has called for the African Union to mediate with the federal government after the electoral agency revoked its legal status resulting in heightened tension.

Tragically, the delay in implementing the agreement and subsequent antagonism has fuelled fears of renewed violence and still some one million people displaced by war have yet to return to their homes.

Relations with countries on Ethiopia's borders have also deteriorated. Egypt and Sudan continue to oppose the operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam seeing any reduction in the flow of the Nile as an existential threat. During 2024/25 Ethiopia's attempts to access ports in Somaliland without consulting the Somali government angered the regime and tempers remain high. And despite a brief de-escalation in border tension with Eritrea following the election of Abiy Ahmed Ali relations have returned to their frosty state with the Ethiopian Prime Minister issuing the warning that anyone planning to invade his country should think 10 times before doing so. Significantly Egypt, Somalia and Eritrea have cemented an axis against Ethiopia and strained relations persist.

Economically 2024/25 was not a good year for Ethiopia with the currency at times falling 30% against the US dollar. The government reversed its long-standing policy of fixing the exchange rate in a bid to secure a \$10 billion loan from the IMF and World Bank. The news was received with some trepidation across Ethiopia with the people fearing sharp rises in an already high inflation rate. Feedback from our volunteers, the children we support and trustees following inspection has confirmed that this is evident.

Our Risk Register is regularly reviewed and currently highlights the following areas:

- Long-term commitment to supporting children to Independence
- Trustee succession
- Loss of active volunteers in the UK
- Significant fall in income from donors
- Due diligence
- Funds transfer

... and always the safeguarding of children.

All this has informed trustees' decision-making for example regarding the level of allowances and grants issued and the security of children we care for in the war-zone. The relocation of Matyas and his mother from Tigray to the capital is just one example of where decisions have been taken and support given to ensure the safety of the girls and boys we care for.

Despite all the clear and ongoing risks our commitment to help some of the most vulnerable children in the world has not wavered. With the increase in the number of girls and boys we care for it has been necessary to structure into communities. This has been a natural progression. For example Tsadkan oversees the children on the south side of Addis Ababa while the two communities to the east of the city are looked after by Tlahun and Peniel. In all we have ten communities. This includes the most recent families we have agreed to support in Tigray. Here Hamen in Mekelle and Almaz in Axum are keeping us in touch with the day-to-day needs of the children, distributing the monthly allowances and keeping trustees updated about the situation in that region.

As set out in the governing document and registered with the Charity Commission the charity's activities are based on:

- (i) The relief of poverty and sickness and
- (ii) The advancement of education

... of homeless, disadvantaged and needy children in Ethiopia.

The charity has strategies to promote health and well-being and families are supported into accommodation, education and employment. Overall

the charity helps needy children recognise and fulfil their dreams and aspirations.

Since foundation the trustees have worked hard to ensure that we can support children long-term ultimately to self-sufficiency. As such the decision-making process has to be consistent over time, support agreed programmes and lead to transformational change. We operate in a dynamic environment and regular contact with volunteers in Ethiopia is apparent on a daily basis. When dealing with the many requests and challenges the following list of guiding principles acts as a reference:

- SCH supports children who are with a family member. This ensures that safeguarding concerns are minimised and no one associated with the charity is ever alone with a child. However, even though this approach reduces possible safeguarding issues we never forget that we are caring for vulnerable people and vigilance in this area is integral to the work. Typically the children live with a grandmother or aunt having become orphaned. In other cases the father has died and income has ceased. Young widowed mothers with children are a common sight begging in Ethiopia.
- SCH is not structured along the lines of a single large building filled with children. Historically this approach has been shown to have serious flaws even in developed countries. Instead the children live in separate small houses across Addis Ababa and Tigray. Usually the house comprises only a single room but it is a start and it is off the street. The beauty of this approach to housing is that we have no upper limit, no capacity issues. We don't turn children away on the basis that 'our building is full.' We are constrained only by the amount of donations we receive from kind supporters. Simply put – the more donations we receive the more children we can take off the street.
- The charity is pleased to report that, although the number of children cared for has increased, we continue to oversee a very personal operation. We know if Gebrella is doing well in school, we know how Rahel's operation has gone, we know what Bamlak has had for breakfast. When the trustees are not in Ethiopia our volunteers maintain close relations with all the families supported

and ongoing contact with the trustees ensures that progress can be monitored and issues resolved in a timely and effective manner.

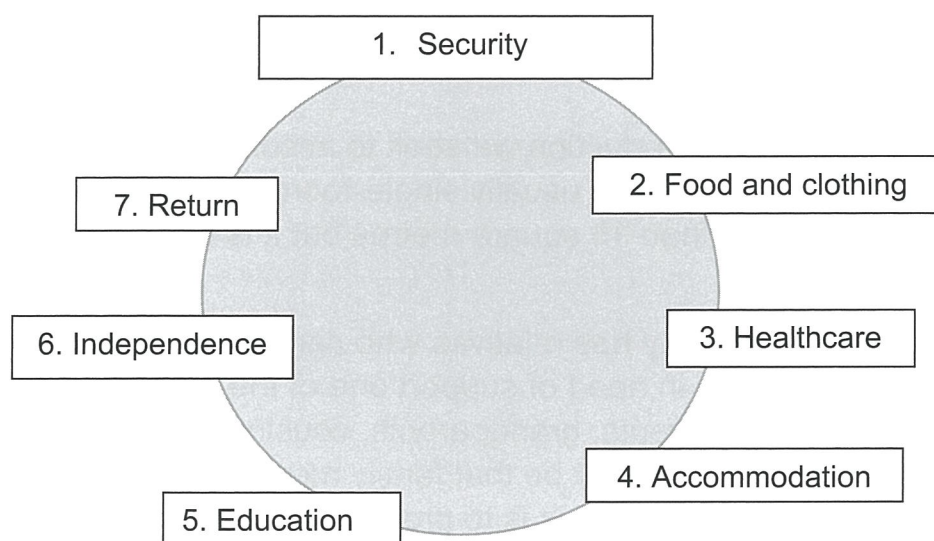
- The need to strive for *whole family* independence has been accepted as a valuable way forward. For example, if we provide a young widowed mother with a sewing machine to earn an income mending clothes then her children also benefit. This releases funds to support other families, reduces dependency and results in heightened self-esteem. And yet, our target for families needing help is zero. At first reading this appears to be a paradox but is clarified by the Drive to Independence. Ultimately we strive to help all the children we support to stand on their own two feet and we look forward to that affirming declaration – ‘thank you for all you have done for us but we are self-sufficient now. Please use the funds to help others in need.’
- Greater focus on partnership working is seen as an important step in being able to support children effectively and SCH has already benefited from working closely with hospitals and other charities in Addis Ababa.
- **And – as always – every penny donated goes directly to provide food, clothing, housing, healthcare and education for the children. All SCH overheads and running costs from payment of money transfer charges from the UK to Ethiopia to the cost of flights to Addis Ababa are met by the trustees. Donors contributions are highly valued and do not disappear down a black hole. It is seen as critical that a donor knows what a world of difference they have made to a child’s life.**

3. Achievement and Performance

3.1 In Ethiopia

As referenced in the Introduction we now care for 190 children, an increase of 38 over the past year. 68 families with a total of 125 children are supported with regular monthly allowances to cover basic needs, housing and education. A further 58 children have received one-off payments to cover the annual school registration fee and any medical expenses. These children are in families that have progressed to a level of self-sufficiency but we keep in touch and are always there to turn to if needed. And, having invested in a small poultry farm, 7 children now receive regular allowances from income generated by egg sales. Of the 190 children we support there are 98 girls and 92 boys. All the children are in accommodation and all those of school age are in the classroom.

The trustees have updated their stepwise approach to caring for a child on the road to independence and, with our support for children escaping from the war zone, it is clear that a first step – the security of the child – needs to take priority.



Security

There are 3.6 million people on the brink of starvation in Ethiopia. With conflict in two regions of the country this has led to over 600,000 people killed to date. Additionally hundreds of refugees cross the border into Ethiopia daily as they escape conflict in their own countries – Sudan and Somalia have both suffered from the disastrous effects of war in recent years. The situation, particularly in the north of Ethiopia, is chaotic and precarious.

Thousands of women have been widowed during this time and many make their way to the capital with their children in search of relative safety. With little support in Addis Ababa these displaced families swell the numbers sleeping on the streets and it is estimated that 100,000 children will sleep on the streets of Addis Ababa tonight. (United Nations and World Food Programme data.)

Just some of the reasons we operate in this part of the world.

We have been asked by people outside, and perhaps more surprisingly inside, Ethiopia – ‘Nobody cares for these children, why do you care for these children?’ It is because nobody cares – or even knows - about these children that we care.

Accommodation

As referred to in the introduction we seek to accommodate families in separate houses. These are usually single-roomed and very basic with floor space no more than 16 square metres but it is off the street and it's a start.

In some cases the family has relatives who can help. When we are introduced to a family in need of support one of the first questions we ask is ‘do you have parents, grandparents, cousins in the city or in other parts of the country?’ It might be that family members are happy to help and the only requirement for us is to provide the means of transport. As reported in the previous section we discovered that Zigabe has a sister who could help and she welcomed her and her son Matyas to live with her and her family.

We were very pleased with the outcome for Tadal and her children for several reasons. The trustees were introduced to Tadal and her children Abraha and Besufkad in February 2024. Having escaped the conflict after her husband was killed the family were sleeping at the roadside in a roughly constructed tent made from plastic bags. Armed with a generous donation from ROE Developments (UK) we met with the elders of the local village and discussed the possibility of local villagers helping – we provide the funds, they provide the workforce. No sooner said than done and within a week Tadal and her children had a roof over their heads. More importantly they knew that they had settled in a caring and supportive community.

As with all the families we are asked to help the situation they are in is often dire with little hope for the future. When confronted by children in desperate circumstances which can be overwhelming solutions are not always immediately apparent but our experience of working in this field has taught us a simple truth – the solution often starts with the mother. It is her love and the desire that her children should have hope for the future that will ultimately make that happen. Our approach is to support Mum, to give her a chance by offering her the means to fulfil the dreams she has for her family.

Health

Many of the children we are asked to help are malnourished. From birth their diet has been based on what they can beg or what they can scavenge in the street or on the rubbish tip. For those that have escaped the conflict and made their way to the city this has been exacerbated by the reduction in aid apparent during 2024/25. As such addressing basic needs taken for granted in developed countries is a priority for us and our supplies are sourced locally or from the livestock and crops we have invested in.

Clothing also requires immediate attention. Ethiopian Airlines generous luggage allowance means we can take substantial amounts of clothes for the children. Many organisations and kind folks donate clothing for us to take. For example the congregation of Quinton Methodist Church have knitted hats, scarves and jumpers, Central Methodist Church members have collections and the football kit from the supporters of Chesterfield FC always puts a smile on the faces of the children.

During 2024/25 we have sought to establish good relations with even more medical professionals in Ethiopia. Dr Tigist is yet another experienced practitioner who we are now acquainted with. She has treated hundreds of patients since qualifying – mainly young girls – and it is reassuring that we have yet another highly respected doctor who we can turn to should the need arise.

Over the course of the year we are able to report that the children we care for have generally enjoyed good health and this is reflected in school attendance data. However, in February we did receive the terrible news that Efrata Israel had died. Despite being blind and suffering with the effects of hydrocephalus Efrata was always bright and cheerful and is sorely missed. Her mother and brother are struggling to cope with their loss. We have supported this family since 2020 and our volunteers are close by their side and keeping the trustees in touch with how best we can help at this time.

Generous folks continue to supply us with hundreds of unwanted pairs of spectacles which we take to Ethiopia. Many an hour is spent with girls and boys trying on pair after pair and the wonderful moment we hear an excited ‘I can see!’ is quite special and always a pleasure to report back to the donors. We are delighted to have been able to provide other equipment to enable children to have fulfilling lives. Efrata Markos is very happy in her new leg braces and it has been rewarding to address the particular needs of Halyeka who uses a wheelchair. The rough terrain in Addis Ababa makes progress difficult but this has been eased by a new battery-powered model and Halyeka’s mobility is greatly improved.

Tsege was our first volunteer. Known to the trustees for many years she played a critical role when the first of our children were taken off the streets and supported. Ever-present she willingly undertook feeding, washing, school-preparation and all the many daily tasks that make the operation tick. Most important she built strong and positive relationships with children who had sometimes been abused and in all cases suffered in desperate circumstances. The transformation to a life of hope was facilitated by an ever-present Tsege and she is loved and respected by all the children. This has been evident now that Tsege has succumbed to the debilitating effects of osteo-arthritis which has resulted in her being bed-ridden. Greatly supported she has Ambes to carry her, Mimi to cook for her and Amanuel – the first child we cared for – to deal with

her toilet bucket. And many thanks to Deborah who is one of our wonderful supporters and is now based in the UK after a life living and working in several countries including Ethiopia. On a visit to Addis Ababa she took a large quantity of medical supplies for Tsege – we know some special people.

Education

We are getting used to seeing pictures of Eyob proudly holding up his Maths Star of the Week certificate – just one of the children working hard and making the most of the opportunity they have been given.

All the school-age children have a desk in a classroom and the number of role models they can look up to continues to increase. Danait and Delina were the first to don the cap and gown following their success at university and Yeshume wasn't far behind. Now Yeshume has returned to university on a part-time basis to study for a Master's degree. With qualified teacher status, a full time job working in a government school and a toddler to bring up weekends and evenings are now study time proving that 90% of genius is founded in hard work.

Cap and gown photographs of the younger children having successfully completed their academic year also evidence the children taking their chance and a beaming Yabsera stood out among the crowd of students.

In recent years kind folks have donated laptops. iPads and mobile phones and these have been a valuable addition to our stock of educational supplies. With Dibabe and Lemlem equipping a room with the computers we now have a facility that all the children they oversee can use. Education will always be part of the solution on the road to independence.

Registration fees vary from school to school and with inflation and an increasing number of children to support this is our biggest annual one-off outlay. For 2024 the total cost was £2,265.

The Drive to Independence

We don't just drop a few coins in an outstretched hand and walk by – we are with these children until they are in self-sufficient families. This long-term commitment requires trustees to always have an eye on the future and the reserves to support children on their journey to independence in some cases for many years.

There are a number of ways this transition from begging to self-sufficiency can be achieved. It may be that a young widowed mother can be reunited with family members who are willing to welcome her into their home.

Discussions about training and employment possibly along the lines of setting up a small business has also led to families we support becoming independent as with Fasika and her daughter Beselot. Fully trained and now an experienced sewing machinist Fasika can now not just make clothes for the children we care for she can also earn income making and selling dresses, curtains and duvet covers. Sewing machines are expensive (currently around £400) but their value as an investment has been proven and Feven, Ayenalum and Rehima have also taken this route becoming proficient. Further, during 2024/25, we have provided sewing machines to a local hospital and now patients can acquire skills in the rehabilitation unit giving them a chance to earn an income when they are discharged.

So contact and relocation to live with extended family, training and supporting guardians to be wage-earners and, of course, by educating the children themselves to acquire qualifications and become equipped to get a job or study at university are supported. Ongoing discussions take place with our teenagers to assess and appropriately support their ambitions. Mekdes wants to be a pilot, Meheret a doctor and with our support they are working hard to make their dreams reality. Not all children see a future that needs a university education and many are keen to start work on leaving school. Tools and training have enabled Kelam to get work as a welder and we have introduced Yohannes to garage owners and taken him to Ethiopian Airlines workshops to support his ambition to become a mechanic.

It is great to see how Melat is increasing her customer-base and taking bookings for beauty treatment. It is 2 years since she finished her course

and she is working hard to maximise the opportunity she has been given. She now has clients at some of the expensive hotels and the signs for future growth are positive.

At the beginning of the year we listened to Mehat talking excitedly about wanting to be a hotel manager when she left school. We have supported her progress and she is now on the verge of successfully completing her first year at college. She has taken to her new life as a student and made many contacts in the hotel business which all bodes well for a successful start to her career - she has already been offered a position with a reputable hotel following her graduation.

The trustees are often asked the question 'yes but what does a bright future look like for these children?' The response may not sound too ambitious to someone enjoying the benefits of living in a developed country with a welfare state, emergency services a phone call away and a supermarket on the corner. So much of what represents a wonderful life for the girls and boys we care for is too easily taken for granted in many countries. When your early years have been shaped by begging on the street then food, clothes, housing, healthcare, education and, critically, the means to stand on your own two feet with hope for tomorrow represent a very bright future.

In 2022 our volunteers were contacted by a local church with a view to fostering a baby girl. Her mother had rejected her and the pastor was looking for help to care for the child. We spoke with Mebrat and broached the idea that she might foster the baby. (As a young girl Mebrat had become pregnant, was homeless and was sleeping on the floor of a church with her new born son Yabsera – we have supported them ever since and Yabsera is now 7 years old, in good health and a keen student.) Mebrat agreed to look after the little girl and called her Mariel. It has been very special to see how this arrangement has turned out. Mariel is now a lively 3 year old blessed with a loving mother and doting brother in Yabsera. This is just one example that captures our desire to see return on investment not in terms of money but in extending a caring approach. If families we have supported can act on opportunities to help others who are in the predicament they once were there is a natural progression to helping vulnerable children to thrive.

The Next Level

The 2023/24 Annual Report referred to the trustees aspirations to move to the next level. That is to invest in larger-scale initiatives that will benefit whole communities of children. The point was raised that this may require bids for government funding. In the event during 2024/25 we have benefited from the generosity of our individual donors and the companies ROE Developments (UK), Belle Vie Aesthetics and Storrs Electrical who have donated substantial lump sums. This has financed the following projects:

- Sewing machine workshop
- Irrigation and crops
- Plastic recycling
- Livestock

Although in the early stages we are pleased to report that these projects are up and running and delivering the planned benefits both to the children we care for and partners in Ethiopia.

Sewing Machines

Fasika, Feven, Aynalum and Rehima are now fully equipped both with equipment and materials. Erratic power supply hindered Fasika's output during the year but this has been solved with the purchase of a manual machine. These mothers have not just made clothes for children we care for but are also earning an income making and selling, for example, curtains and bedding. The children may live in little houses made of corrugated iron and cow dung but they are very happy with their new outfits created by our machinists.

We have also equipped a local hospital with machines and patients are being trained before being discharged in the rehabilitation centre. They are making the most of this opportunity and giving themselves a chance to support themselves after they finish their course of treatment.

Irrigation and Crops

During the 2024 inspection the trustees noted a small lake in a local hospital grounds. Questioning revealed that the lake contained water all

year round as it was fed by underground streams. With land nearby it was surprising that this water supply was not used for irrigation and crop-growing. Plans were drawn up and drip-irrigation kits have been acquired.

It is anticipated that the first crops of carrots and potatoes will be harvested in the coming weeks. Further, cost analysis has been completed and this initiative will be progressed to grow a wider variety of vegetables, plant fruit trees and invest in mushroom spores.

Plastic Recycling

Many families in Ethiopia have to walk long distances to collect water for washing, drinking and cooking. Few have access to running water in the home. Large plastic jerry cans are used and often dumped thus littering the local area. Our volunteers now collect these, tidy them up and sell them – the income supports four of the children we care for.

Livestock

During 2024/25 the profit from our livestock has been reinvested to buy more cows, sheep, goats and chickens – Chadwick Farm goes from strength to strength. The additional income from this enterprise has been one of the factors which has led to the increasing number of girls and boys we support. There is also the potential for future employment in stock management should the children have aspirations in this field beyond school.

Solar Panels

Nominated volunteers feature in our investment with responsibility for ongoing support and reporting to the trustees so that any necessary remedial action can be taken. Over the past year the trustees have made initial enquiries about the purchase of solar panels which are available in Ethiopia. (A small solar panel is sited above every street light in Addis Ababa.) At preliminary stage re costing and implementation – to be progressed.

3.2 Outside Ethiopia

Promotion and fund raising has progressed throughout the year and numerous activities have resulted in donations continuing on their upward trajectory. It has been a pleasure to attend gatherings of various groups and talk about our work. The majority of these have been repeat bookings and it is great to return to see friends who are keen to hear about the progress of the children they have supported so generously. A programme of presentations has been delivered to members of the following organisations:

- The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize
- The Rotary Club of Aireborough
- St Paul's Church, Hasland
- Pilsley Community Group
- St Thomas' Church, Brampton
- Holymoorside Women's Group
- Wingerworth WI
- Staveley Seniors
- Salem Chapel
- Chesterfield Townswomen's Guild
- Inkersall Social Group
- St John's Church, Newbold
- Central Methodist Church

We are delighted to have been beneficiaries of the microloan scheme initiated by members of The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize. The members have provided donations on the basis that they are used to support families to independence. We have identified Tlahun as best placed to oversee the scheme in Ethiopia and loans are given out to individuals – usually widowed Mums with children – who we support. The aim is for them to set up in business so that they become self-sufficient and don't have to rely on SCH, Ethiopia. The loans do not bear interest and a repayment plan is agreed depending on factors such as forecast income and the number of dependents in the family. To date loans have been made to buy livestock, set up market stalls and purchase hairdressing equipment and beauty products. These initiatives have achieved the aim of helping families to independence and have led to the additional benefit for the charity of reducing the number of allowances we send each month – these savings have been used to

help more girls and boys off the street and have been a major factor in increasing the number of families we can support.

John and Margaret Bown have been long-standing friends of our children and we are very grateful for all that they have done for them. Regular donors they also sends royalties from John's book – ***Called to Serve and Protect*** - which covers his time working with the Ethiopian Police Force. And – wonderfully – guests at John and Margaret's Diamond Wedding Anniversary celebrations generously donated to the charity at the couple's request.

Dave Powditch is another of the children's heroes championing the cause around Chesterfield and raising an incredible level of funds to help further the charity's aims. Sales of second-hand goods including tools, clothes and toys have become a regular source of income all credit to Dave's drive and initiative. Dave has also had a book published. ***Given*** is a collection of poems and ditties reflecting on moments along the road we all travel. Yet another of the many friends of the girls and boys we help and ...

... runners, we mustn't forget our champions of the track. Picking up the baton in 2024/25 were Michael, Shirley and Mike who pounded the streets of London in The Big Half Marathon raising vast amounts in sponsorship. Exhausting to watch let alone run their brilliant efforts were inspirational. Sticking with the sporting theme the good folks of Chesterfield Football Club chipped in with bags of kit which put smiles on the faces of the children. Visitors to Addis Ababa spotting a girl or boy in a Spireites shirt can be assured that they are one of ours.

We continue to appear in publications and attend for interviews at radio stations and Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia has featured in:

- Lichgate News, St Paul's Church
- Ploughshare, St Thomas' Church
- Reflections
- Kaleidoscope – Sutton African Caribbean Cultural Organisation
- TWIST
- S40
- The Derbyshire Times
- BBC Radio Derby
- BBC Radio Sheffield

- Spire Radio
- Imperial Voice Radio
- Elastic FM
- Sheffield Hallam University Alumni Newsletter

During 2024/25 the reach of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia has continued to extend to countries around the world. In addition to supporters in Australia, Denmark, France, Italy, Poland and several states across the USA we now have friends in Brazil and Canada who have shown a keen interest in our work. Kind donors have also increased in number across the UK and we are delighted with the response to our work by new groups of friends who have taken up the cause and are increasingly involved in the promotion of the charity's aims. The trustees will continue to work with all our supporters keeping them in touch with the children and are always available to speak with any group who might be interested in our charity – we look forward to hearing from you.

4. Financial Review

With over 125 million people Ethiopia remains one of the poorest countries in the world with average per capita gross national income \$1.02. In recent years there has been some development notably with the expansion of nearby potable water, increased access to electricity and successful child vaccination programmes. However, the state-led development has relied on overvalued currency, unsustainable debt and strict regulations that limit private investment. Overall this approach has restricted competitiveness, fuelled inflation and drained resources. 70% of the population depends on agriculture, global trade is limited and multiple crises including COVID-19, drought and the Tigray conflict have severely impacted economic imbalance and led to debt default. Living standards have deteriorated and conflict displaced over 3 million people resulting in humanitarian and reconstruction needs.

In 2024, in an attempt to stabilise the economy and revive growth, the government has embarked on comprehensive macroeconomic reform. Supported by the IMF and World Bank financing Ethiopia has shifted to an interest-based monetary framework which aims to translate economic improvements into tangible benefits for its people. Higher earnings,

productive jobs and improved public services are key aims. Development challenges are significant and have to include:

- Expanding private sector growth and reducing state-dominance of the economy.
- Reducing the conflicts which persist throughout the country.
- Overcoming food insecurity which is growing due to adverse weather conditions.
- Improving human capital – a child born in Ethiopia is estimated to achieve only 38% of its development potential.
- The need to create jobs – 2 million people reach working age every year.

These are just some of the significant and long-standing challenges Ethiopia faces and ultimately are the reasons we operate in this part of the world.

A simple truth is always to the fore as the trustees look to support children and work to help them transform their lives:

It is kind and loyal donors who give our volunteers the means to feed, house and educate the children we care for and we can do nothing without their support.

The cost of supporting a child including food, shelter and schooling is **£25 a month.**

A question that many charities seek to answer is 'how can ongoing funds be found?' For us the answer lies in clearly understanding the ideal end-state and working to put in place a cyclic, self-perpetuating model that makes the need for funding from our donors unnecessary – that makes the trustees of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia redundant. This is founded on the basic principle that folks need to roll their own sleeves up and work to stand on their own two feet. Ultimately long-term funding needs to be earned by the families themselves.

Of the 190 children we support 58 are now independent and in jobs secured after getting good results in school or by guardians being trained and supported into business ventures. We keep in touch with these, now independent, families in case of, for example, medical emergencies even though we don't send them monthly allowances anymore. This is no different to family relationships in any country in the world and it is rewarding to see folks who were once begging on the street now leading fulfilling lives and, like Yeshume, bringing up their own families.

In addition to earning income supporting families to self-sufficiency has many benefits including enhanced self-esteem, hope for the future and the reassurance that tomorrow can bring what it wants and it can be faced with confidence. For the local community there is the provision of services and products and for us as charity trustees saved allowances that can be used to help even more children off the streets.

Six years ago we were introduced to Mehat who was surviving in desperate circumstances. Dad had died and her mother was HIV+ and bed-ridden. Mehat had dropped out of school to care for Mum and with rain pouring in through the roof of their one-roomed hut the situation looked dire. With the antiretrovirals sorted Mum's health improved dramatically and with a small allowance from us Mehat was able to return to the classroom. With excellent school results we discussed careers with Mehat and she talked about her ambition to become a hotel manager. Now nearing the end of her first year at college Mehat is doing well and we have introduced her to the business managers in several hotels. In one case – providing she graduates from college – she has been offered an apprenticeship. Mehat is just one of the children who have given us confidence and is living proof that our approach to addressing the long-term funding question is well-founded.

Broadly the charity continues to operate on a prudent basis of:

Regular funds in e.g. standing orders = Regular allowances paid

and

One-off donations = One-off payments made

e.g. medical emergencies, grants, annual school registration fees.

We continue to use only registered banking systems for investment and money transfer. As advised by the UK International Charity Engagement Team we never use cash couriers.

Noted that no funds are materially in deficit. For detailed financial information please visit the Charity Commission website.

5. Change Agenda and Concluding Remarks

In the 2023/24 report we expressed the ambition to move to the ‘next level’ with possible submissions to governments for funding. In the event, as covered in these pages, we have benefited from private sector and benevolent group funding and the significant donations by ROE Development (UK), Belle Vie, The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize and Storrs Electrical have been pivotal in enabling the trustees to take the first steps to bring community-benefiting initiatives to fruition. Irrigation, crop-growing, hospital ward refurbishment and plastic recycling are all up and running and we are very grateful for this level of support which runs in tandem with the fantastic loyalty of individual donors who commit regular donations every month.

These projects are on track to deliver substantial benefits for families in Ethiopia and new initiatives are being explored in partnership with our friends in Ethiopia. As with current initiatives these will be closely managed. The trustees have seen first-hand failing projects initiated by well-meaning charities and individuals. Rusting solar panels rotting on rubbish tips are testament to the failure of the ‘give something and walk away’ approach. Similarly photocopiers stand idle in school classrooms because the donors didn’t consider the need for consumables, training or even something as minor as bulb replacement or as major as whether there is a reliable supply of electricity – not good enough. As such the trustees and volunteers of Saltergate Children’s Home, Ethiopia are always on hand post-implementation to support.

Acute awareness has been triggered by fast-growing children in terms of ‘they are approaching school-leaving age – how can we best support the transition to life beyond the classroom?’ This transition needs to be

addressed on a child by child basis and we are on hand discussing, listening to the ambitions of Mehat, Bethlehem and Kelam as they prepare for life in the outside world where work, university and training college are all assessed.

The challenges to maximising the benefits of current initiatives, establishing new ones and supporting families to independence are significant but the experience the trustees have acquired in the past 10 years, the local knowledge of our volunteers and the energy of the children we care for will stand us in good stead and the girls and boys we care for – and will care for – have every chance of a successful and prosperous future.

Although our change agenda is progressive and demanding our touchstone is always summarised in one question and guides everything we do – ‘if this child was your own what would you do?’

6. Declaration

Independent Examiner *JANINE PATRICIA LE MIRE*

Signature *Janine P. Le Mire*

Date *27 November 2025*

Chair of Trustees *KEVIN MORROW*

Signature *[Signature]*

Date *27 November 2025*

Appendices

Appendix A - Reference and Administration

Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

Registered Charity Number: 1175880

Charity's Address: 10 Foxbrook Court, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire S40 3SS

M: (+44) 077 899 75460

E: kevinjosephmorley@yahoo.co.uk

Charity Trustees:

1. Michelle Marie Guthrie
2. Rebecca Gurr
3. Genet Morley
4. David Levick
5. Kevin Morley (Chair)

The body entitled to appoint trustees are the current board of charity trustees.

Names of the trustees for the charity e.g. Custodian Trustees:

None

Names and addresses of advisers:

None

Name of Chief Executive or names of senior staff members:

None

Appendix B - Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the charity's trusts:

Type of Governing Document: Constitution adopted 21 June 2015 – latest version included here:

SMALL CHARITY CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The charity's name is:

Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

2. THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY ARE:

- (i) the relief of poverty, homelessness and sickness and
- (ii) the advancement of education and employment beyond school leading to the self-sufficiency

... of disadvantaged and needy families in Ethiopia.

The charity will promote health and well-being and will help children and young adults to recognise and fulfil their dreams and aspirations.

3. TRUSTEES

The charity shall be managed by a committee of trustees who are members and are appointed at the Annual Meeting of the charity with approval to continue in the role for a further year.

4. CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

In order to carry out the charitable purposes, the trustees have the power to:

- (1) raise funds, profit from business opportunities, receive grants and donations
- (2) apply funds to carry out the work of the charity
- (3) co-operate with and support other charities with similar purposes
- (4) do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes

For definition purposes these form the rules of the charity.

5. MEMBERSHIP

The charity will aim to build the membership. People who support the work of the charity and are aged 18 or over can apply to the trustees to become a member. Once accepted by the trustees membership may be renewed. The trustees will keep an up-to-date membership list.

The trustees may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the charity. The member has the right to be heard by the trustees before the decision is made and can be accompanied by a friend.

6. ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting must be held every year with 14 days' notice and agenda given to all members. Minutes will be kept of the Annual Meeting.

- (1) There must be at least 3 members present at the meeting.
- (2) Every member has one vote.
- (3) The trustees shall present the annual report and accounts.
- (4) Any member may stand for election as a trustee.
- (5) Members shall elect between 3 and 10 trustees to serve for the next year. They will retire at the next annual meeting but may stand for re-election.

7. TRUSTEE MEETINGS

- (1) Trustees must hold at least 3 meetings each year. At their first meeting after the annual meeting they will elect a chair, treasurer and secretary. Trustees may act by majority decision.
- (2) At least 3 trustees must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
- (3) If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.
- (4) During the year the trustees may appoint up to 2 additional trustees. They will stand down at the next annual meeting.
- (5) The trustees may make reasonable additional rules to help run the charity. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

8. MONEY AND PROPERTY

- (1) Money and property must only be used for the charity's purposes.
- (2) Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by members on request.
- (3) Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the charity.
- (4) Money must be held in the charity's bank account. All cheques must be signed by 2 trustees.

9. GENERAL MEETINGS

If the Trustees consider it is necessary to change the constitution, or wind up the charity, they must call a General Meeting so that the membership can make the decision. Trustees must also call a General Meeting if they receive a written request from the majority of members. All members must be given 14 days notice and told the reason for the meeting. All decisions require a two thirds majority. Minutes must be kept.

- (1) **Winding up** - any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be transferred to the appointed officers in Ethiopia to use in accordance with the purposes of the charity.
- (2) **Changes to the Constitution** - can be made at Annual Meetings or General Meetings. No change can be made that would make the organisation no longer a charity.
- (3) **General Meeting** - called on written request from a majority of members.
- (4) Trustees may also call a General Meeting to consult the membership.

Note: Every effort will be made to hold face-to-face meetings. If this is not possible meetings will be held virtually or using telephone facilities. Any votes cast will be confirmed by post. If a meeting is held using digital solutions or over the telephone this will be recorded in the minutes.

10. SETTING UP THE CHARITY

The charity was founded and the original constitution adopted by the trustees on 21 June 2015. The current trustees signatures appear below. They are the members of the charity and will be the trustees until the Annual Meeting. Amendments to the constitution were approved by the trustees on 14 September 2018, 25 September 2020, 4 June 2021 and 7 February 2025.

How the charity is constituted: Unincorporated Association.

Trustee selection method: Trustees are appointed or re-appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting by existing trustees.

Additional Governance Issues

At induction trustees are referred to the Charity Commission guidance and the charity's policies in particular regarding safeguarding. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

Appendix C – Trustees Scope

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the charity's objects and with due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission are in accordance with the strategies:

1. Management

Overall management of the charity has ensured that a legal framework is adhered to, the planning cycle is robust and the vision is being delivered in accordance with the agreed strategies.

2. Promotion and Fund Raising

The charity is promoted worldwide, awareness is raised and a network of individuals and partner organisations which are mutually beneficial and have developed into a supportive community is being built. ICT is used wherever possible to promote and secure the charity.

Homes are supported by raising funds by any legal means, approaching organisations and individuals and promoting events and initiatives. Donors and Friends of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia are highly valued for their essential contribution.

3. Cost Reduction

Effort has been expended to ensure that costs are on a variable basis wherever possible and opportunities are continuously sought to drive costs down.

4. Partnership

We have built relations with government departments and other organisations and charities – bodies that the charity can work with in partnership to deliver the vision.

5. Care in Ethiopia

We research, deploy and deliver on care, accommodation, medical facilities/expertise and appropriate educational establishments. Regular payments have been made to families and one-off payments are made in response to requests for healthcare and

educational supplies. Children have been referred for vaccinations in accordance with the programme available in Ethiopia and the cost of physiotherapy and dietary supplements has been covered.

6. Growth in Ethiopia

We grow secure, sustainable homes as driven by the charity's available resources which are legally-based. We have built a supportive family community and gender balance of the total number of children we care for is continuously addressed.

The value of the charity's work to the children it supports can be measured in terms of:

- Provision of basic needs e.g. food, clothing
- Families in accommodation
- Children in school and results in school
- Children receiving necessary healthcare
- Adults in training
- Families becoming self-sufficient
- Level of Return
- Delivery of agreed projects

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit when planning the charity's activities at the trustee meetings.

Charity Commission for England and Wales

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

Charity Number: 1175880

For the period from: 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Section A - Receipts and payments

A1 Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Last year
Donations (Individuals)	21123			21123	17901
Donations (Organisations)	19728			19728	20496
Donations (Trustees)	2827			2827	3275
Fund Raising Events	1301			1301	60
Gift Aid Receipts	2007			2007	1576
Sub Total	46986			46986	43308
A2 Asset and investment sales					
Total Receipts	46986			46986	43308

A3 Payments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Last Year
Payments made to Ethiopia	31340			31340	25100
Printing, stationery, postage	1918			1918	1738
Travel & Subsistence	909			909	1537
Sub Total	34167			34167	28375
A4 Asset and investment purchases					
Total Payments	34167			34167	28375

Net of Receipts/ Payments	12819			12819	14933
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A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	65544			65544	
Cash funds this year end	78363			78363	

Section B - Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash Funds

Details	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds
Total cash funds (b/f from receipt and payment accounts)	78363		

B2 Other Monetary Assets

Details	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds

B3 Investment Assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current Value


B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current Value

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount Due	When Due

Signed by one trustee on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of Approval
	Kevin Morley	27/11/ 2025

Format based on The Charity Commission template March 2012: New format January 2017

Charity Commission for England and Wales

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

Charity Number: 1175880

For the period from: 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report

I hereby declare that on 27/11/25 the following evidence pertaining to the Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia accounts were made available to me:

- Receipts and Payments Accounts
- Bank Statements
- Receipts
- International Transfer documents

I confirm that the income and expenditure shown in the accounts for 2024/25 are a true and accurate record of receipts and payments.

Signed



Janine LeMire – Independent Examiner

Date

27th November 2025