

**Debre-Genet Holy Trinity Ethiopian  
Orthodox Tewahedo Church  
London**



**Trustees' Annual Report for the year end  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

# Debre Genet Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church - London

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## Reference and administration details

Charity Name: Debre Genet Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church

Registered Charity number: 1180553 (and **Shell** charity number 1124941)

Charity's Principal Address: St. Michael's Road  
Cricklewood  
London  
NW2 6XG

Names of Trustees during the year:

1. Rev Kefeyalew Aschalew
2. Rev Addis Abebe (From 25 October 2020)
3. Rev. Kibret Asnakew (From 25 October 2020)
4. Rev. Samuel Asres (From 25 October 2020)
5. Mr Aschalew Terefe Zeleke (From 25 October 2020)
6. Mr Mesfin Taddesse Demu (From 25 October 2020)
7. Mr Samuel Wodajo (From 25 October 2020)
8. Ms Raheal Gelana (From 25 October 2020)
9. Rev. Fisseha Teferi (From 25 October 2020)
10. Rev Theodrose Negussie (Until 25 October 2020)
11. Dn Befekadu Feleke (Until 25 October 2020)
12. Mr Samson Seife Bekele (Until 25 October 2020)
13. Mr Eyasu Sisay (Until 25 October 2020)
14. Mr Aynalem Mebratu (Until 25 October 2020)
15. Mr Berhanie Afework (Until 25 October 2020)
16. Mr Ephrem Demssie Tekle (Until 25 October 2020)
17. Dn Dr Dawit Solomon (Until 25 October 2020)

Independent Examiner: Mr. Gizachew Weldeyes, FCCA.

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc  
25 Gresham Street  
London  
EC2V 7HN

Barclays Bank (UK) PLC  
147-149 Ray Lane  
London  
SE15 4ST

## **Structure, governance and management**

As a body of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC), Debre Genet Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (DGHTC) follows the Canon Laws of EOTC and the guidance of the Holy Synod whose seat is in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Diocese of United Kingdom and Ireland EOTC represents the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church in the UK.

DGHTC is Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) (Charity No. 1180553) since November 2018. The original charity will be closed once all assets are transferred to the new charity (CIO). We are in the process of transferring all assets to the new CIO so that we can close the original, unincorporated charity.

The Trustees meet fortnightly and are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Church's activities and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. Relevant matters may be submitted to the church General Assembly of Members' Meeting for resolution or may be raised by members for further consideration by the Trustees.

## **Appointment of Trustees**

The church is governed by its Constitution, and the Parish Administration Council (PAC) (the Trustees) of the charity are elected by the church members at a General Assembly Meeting for a three-year term with the prime responsibility of managing the day-to-day affairs of the church. In addition to the ecclesiastical and legal guidance mentioned above, the church has internal policies, guidelines and procedures that guide the day-to-day running of the charity. All congregants are encouraged to be members of the church, to exercise their rights and duties including electing and standing for PAC election.

## **Objectives**

The mission of DGHT church is promoting the message of Christ to the world to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Apostolic Faith and Acts of The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church; and in emulation of Christ's mission to the world, particularly in His ministry to transform individual lives, communities, and the world, and to share the burden of the most vulnerable in society and to cater the needs of some of the neediest people irrespective of their faith.

The second objective of the church is to help young people to grow into being responsible and dependable citizens. It focuses on teaching and supporting the youth to protect themselves from substance abuse, antisocial behaviors and other distractions through Christian moral teachings and engagement in various religious and social activities to build strong moral integrity that is shared by the church community and the wider society.

## Debre Genet Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church - London

The PAC has a responsibility in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. PAC members are charity Trustees. The PAC must ensure compliance with charity law, church (ecclesiastical) law and exercise prudence and a duty of care.

To advance these objectives, the PAC carries out different activities, in line with the guidance set out in The Charity Commission's general regulation on public benefit.

### **Performance and Achievements**

#### **Worship and prayer**

During 2020 the Parish Administration Council have made regular adaptations to respond to the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic. There have been times of closure enforced by the Government restrictions, and times of closure when the Parish Administration Council (Trustees) considered it was necessary for the health and safety of our fellowship. Each week there has been live transmitted service on the church YouTube, and recordings have been made available to those who do not have followed the service direct. Any services that have been held in church have been subject to all the latest guidance on the necessary health and safety precautions. The church has remained open at least twice each week for private prayer.

The online spiritual service on the other hand impacted positively by reaching more people and introducing the church and this produced more attendees when the church was opened for the service.

The church welcomes visitors and worshippers from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and, it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship God is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities.

The average regular weekly attendance was impacted by the pandemic in comparison to our normal operations. Our Sunday morning service remains the most highly attended service, and we also added weekly Saturday spiritual and communal involvement services the church also has two regular monthly liturgy services. Over the course of the year, we have seen a steady rise in service attendance, and it has been a great encouragement to welcome new members to DGHT church.

We look to encourage the deepening of faith for all ages, and alongside our normal spiritual services, there are programs for children and young people join in. Children were at the center of the church activities, and through the churches various sub committees it has worked tirelessly to enable children and young persons to stay safe, healthy, enjoy life and achieve their potential, make a positive contribution to the community.

Our children and youth services' progress has been encouraging. The Parish Administration Council has taken several measures to cater for the needs of the children and young adults. Our Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry are particularly key to how we help the younger members of our church grow in their faith. A major area in which the Children Service seeks to share the Christian faith and moral values is through the development of continued trainings. These trainings consist of leadership development, leadership in youth ministry,

## Debre Genet Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church - London

deaconship studies and hosting bible studies program. The main purpose is for them to learn how to make positive influence and contribute to the society and helping them to develop in provision of community services.

The church has been offering a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that are both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling to the community. For example, evening prayers provided a quiet, intimate, and reflective environment for worship.

Special services at Christmas and Easter were well attended as usual, and other five annual feasts of the church have also been celebrated. As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 83 baptisms and 5 weddings and held 6 funerals in our church this year.

During the season of the Great Lent, we were blessed to have mass liturgy, evening prayers and bible studies during weekdays, and morning liturgies on the weekends. The two-weeks fasting period preceding the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady Virgin Mary was also celebrated in a similar manner, with mass liturgy, and evening prayers and bible studies every day. Preaching has been delivered by a variety of people and has covered various themes during these times.

We continue to share the good news of Jesus through a range of programs and ministries that we run.

Pastoral Care for families as well as for troubled or needy individuals has also been provided throughout 2020. In addition to individual guidance and counseling services, our clergies have provided counseling and mediation services to couples and families that are going through difficult times. Our welfare committee has gathered funds for indigent, especially for vulnerable families and individuals, as well as coordinating visitation of the sick, housebound and elderlies. Some members of our parish were unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The clergies have visited all church members who have requested a service, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. This service was very helpful during the pandemic as more people needed comfort and spiritual attention more than ever.

The DGHTC has continued its ecumenical role by teaching people new to the Orthodox Christian faith and promoting tolerance in the community for those of other religions and none. Clerical services such as schools and character references, and holy matrimony have also been provided to church members and the wider community.

## **Public Benefit**

The Trustees are aware of the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission, and we believe that the activities of the Church that are described above provide significant public benefit in line with the guidance. It has always been the vision of the Church to reach as many people as possible in our community with the Christian message and to welcome new faces into our fellowship.

## **Acknowledgements**

Praising God first for giving us the means and opportunity to serve His Church, the PAC would like to give special thanks to all clergies of DGHTC who have continued to serve the church with great passion and dedication. We are also grateful for everyone who participated including the Sunday school services, and all other sub-committees' contribution to the church services in various ways.

## **Financial review**

The annual accounts for 2020 have been prepared and are recommended by the PAC to the Annual General Church Meeting thanks to the exceptional work of our Finance Officers from the Parish Administration Council.

The income of the church decreased by about 29% and so did the expenditures by about 31% during the year, mainly due to decrease in the overall activities of the church as a result of the pandemic.

During the current year the church administration observed the following:

Compared to 31 December 2019, total fund has gone up by 6.5% despite the decrease in the church's activities.

The church administration has managed to keep sufficient funds to cover its running costs for over a year and keep it in operational existence for the foreseeable future

The net result for the period is an excess of income over expenditure of £102,154. Including balance brought forward at the beginning of the year, the total funds balance carried forward as of 31 December 2020 is £1,665,488.

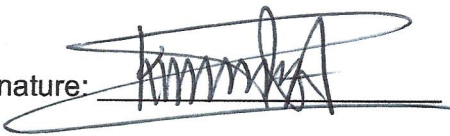
## **Reserves policy**

It is the PAC's policy to maintain sufficient funds, if possible, which equates to approximately 12 months, to cover mortgage payment, bills, maintenance, clergy allowance and for any emergency situations that may arise from time to time. A balance of £150,000 cash at bank and on hand at the year-end is the target.

## Declaration

The Parish Administration Council (Trustees) declares that it approves the above report.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees,

Signature: 

Date: 30/10/21

**Rev. Kefeyalew Aschalew**



# Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts of 'Debre Genet Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church in London'

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

'Debre Genet Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church in London'

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31 December 2020

**Charity no:**

1180553 (Shell  
charity no.1124941)

**Set out on pages**

8 to 11

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2020.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the ACCA.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**



**Date:**

24/10/2021

**Name:**

Gizachew Weldeyes

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

ACCA

**Address:**

24 Geary Court

24 The Concourse

N9 0TQ

**ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO DEBRE GENET HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN LONDON**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	<b>NOTE</b>	<b>TOTAL 2020 £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2019 £</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>			
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations	<b>4</b>	140,488	185,806
Charitable Activities	<b>5</b>	68,835	108,715
<b>Total</b>		<b>209,322</b>	<b>294,522</b>
 <b>Resources expended</b>			
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Raising funds	<b>6</b>	17,982	28,953
Charitable Activities	<b>7</b>	89,187	126,050
<b>Total</b>		<b>107,169</b>	<b>155,003</b>
 <b>Net income</b>		<b>102,154</b>	<b>139,519</b>
 <b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>1,563,334</b>	<b>1,423,815</b>
 <b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,665,488</b>	<b>1,563,334</b>

**ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO DEBRE GENET HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN LONDON**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	<b>NOTE</b>	<b>TOTAL 2020 £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2019 £</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Assets	<b>2</b>	2,023,296	2,034,625
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>2,023,296</b>	<b>2,034,625</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash at bank and on hand	<b>3</b>	612,886	543,051
Prepayments		1,657	2,447
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>614,543</b>	<b>545,498</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Amounts falling due with in one year		59,728	64,478
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>554,815</b>	<b>481,020</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2,578,111</b>	<b>2,515,645</b>
Creditors:Amount falling due after more than one year		912,623	952,311
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,665,488</b>	<b>1,563,334</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>			
Reserves			
Income and Expenditure Statement		1,665,488	1,563,334
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		<b>1,665,488</b>	<b>1,563,334</b>

**ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO DEBRE GENET HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN LONDON**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**1 Accounting Policies**

**Basis of accounting**

The church's accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP)

**Going Concern**

The trustees have reviewed the financial plans for the coming year and are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis

**Capitalization and depreciation of tangible fixed assets**

Fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation is calculated as follows:

Building	1% Per annum Straight-Line
Equipment	25% Per annum straight-Line

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Note 2</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Tangible Assets</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Building	2,050,000	2,050,000
Equipment	12,228	0
Less:Accumulated Depreciation Building	35,875	15,375
Less:Accumulated Depreciation Equipment	3,057	0
	<b>2,023,296</b>	<b>2,034,625</b>

**Note 3**

**Cash at bank and on hand**

Cash at bank	612,762	543,051
Cash on hand	124	0
	<b>612,886</b>	<b>543,051</b>

**Note 4**

**Donations**

Members Contributions	120,901	134,509
Tithe and Gift	19,586	51,297
	<b>140,488</b>	<b>185,806</b>

**ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO DEBRE GENET HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN LONDON**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Note 5</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Baptism Certificates	1,060	1,460
Sunday School	80	11,987
Marriage Certificates	0	1,500
Funeral Prayers	1,330	3,330
Sales	4,890	14,320
Annual Conference	0	5,198
Collections	61,475	70,921
	<b>68,835</b>	<b>108,715</b>

<b>Note 6</b>		
<b>Cost of raising funds</b>		
Allowances	12,720	20,995
Conference	302	0
Feasts	1,390	3,277
Telephone	0	180
Postage, Stationery and Printing	2,570	2,101
Others	1,000	2,400
	<b>17,982</b>	<b>28,953</b>

<b>Note 7</b>		
<b>Cost of charitable activities</b>		
Rent	0	3,320
Building Lease	0	5,940
Insurance	8,964	9,624
Cleaning	944	779
Subscription	168	144
Water, Gas and Electricity	4,613	1,027
Travel and Transport	0	7,799
Bank Charges	33,793	30,863
Repairs and Maintenance	9,797	20,446
Donation and Gifts	2,000	0
Legal and Professional	5,350	30,734
Depreciation	23,557	15,375
	<b>89,187</b>	<b>126,050</b>