

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



**Trustees' Annual Report for the year end
31st December 2023**

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)

Independent Examiner: Mr. Gizachew Weldeyes, BSC, 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 the United Kingdom and Ireland EOTC represents the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church in the UK.

DGHTC has been a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) (Charity No. 1180553) since November 2018. 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 Church's day-to-day affairs. 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 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 grow into responsible and dependable citizens. It focuses on teaching and supporting the youth to protect themselves from substance abuse, antisocial behaviours and other distractions through Christian moral teachings and engagement in various religious and social activities to build solid moral integrity shared by the church community and the wider society.

The PAC is responsible for promoting the mission of the Church in the ecclesiastical parish, as well as pastoral, evangelical, social, and ecumenical. PAC members are charity Trustees. The PAC must ensure compliance with charity law, (ecclesiastical) law and exercise prudence and a duty of Care.

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

Performance and Achievements

The year 2023 started with an excellent Christmas service. The Church welcomes visitors and worshippers from the area and outside the parish. The volunteers within the Church worked tirelessly to make the Church welcoming to the congregation. The Sunday services, including the holy mass, the choir, and the youth fellowship, progressed well and were attended by many faithful.

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 year, we have seen a steady rise in service attendance, and it has been a great encouragement to welcome new members to DGHT church.

The Saturday services continued to grow from strength to strength, especially attendance-wise. It is a practical alternative to Sunday services for those who can not attend on Sundays. Our program for young people has been very encouraging. Youth are very interested in learning about their faith and using it in daily practical life. The Parish Administration Council has taken several measures to cater to the needs of the children and young adults, ensuring that the services are catered to be useful not only as spiritual guidance but also to be humble and kind with complete confidence.

As always during 2023, Children were at the centre of the church activities, and through the Church's various sub-committees, it has worked tirelessly to enable children and young persons to stay safe and healthy, enjoy life, achieve their potential, and positively contribute to the community. We look to encourage the deepening of faith for all ages, and alongside our regular spiritual services, there are programs for children and young people to join in and have free discussions.

During Lent, the Church provided daily mass and evening prayer services and left the Church open all day long to ensure it was used for private prayers and meditation for those interested in using it. The Parish Administration Council also developed its communication with the community, and as part of the community engagement, it created a positive relationship with the primary school nearby. The Parish Administration Council happily offered the school the opportunity to use the Church for carol services.

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

The children and youth services programs progress with strength. The number of attendees also increased. Our Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry are particularly critical to how we help the younger members of our Church grow in their faith.

The Church has been offering a range of services during the week and over 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. 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 2023. In addition to individual guidance and counselling services, our clergies have provided counselling and mediation services to couples and families that are going through

Debre Genet Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church - London

difficult times. Our clergies also coordinated visitation of the sick, housebound and elderlies. The clergies have visited congregants at home or in hospitals who have requested a service to celebrate communion.

The DGHTC has continued its ecumenical role by teaching people new to the Orthodox Christian faith and promoting tolerance and living with harmony in the community with others. Clerical services such as schools, character references, and holy matrimony have also been provided to church members.

The church youth service provision of food to the homeless on Fridays has grown increasingly, and more volunteers have come forward to join and support the cause.

Public Benefit

The Trustees are aware of the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission, and we believe that the Church's activities 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 thank all DGHTC clergies who have continued serving the Church with great passion and dedication. The Trustees are grateful to everyone who participated in different forms to benefit the Church, including the Sunday school services, youth and children services in general, and all other sub-committees who contribute to the church services in various ways.

Financial review

The annual accounts for 2023 have been prepared thanks to the work of our finance officers from the Parish Administration Council. And the PAC recommends them to the Annual General Church Meeting. The church's administration managed to raise more income compared to the previous year enabling it to do some maintenance work and cover a spike in electricity and mortgage interest costs. It has also managed to set aside sufficient funds to cover its costs and keep it in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Overall, both total income and expenditure have gone up by 24% and 89% respectively.

Despite the significant increase in expenditure, the total fund has gone up by a modest 8.8% and the target reserve balance has been exceeded.

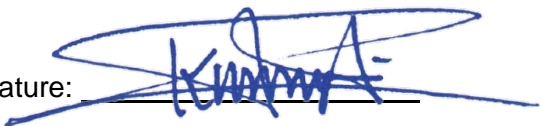
Reserves policy

The PAC's policy is to maintain sufficient funds, if possible, which equates to approximately 12 months, to cover mortgage payments, bills, maintenance, clergy allowance, and any emergencies that may arise occasionally. The target is a reserve balance of £150,000 cash at the bank at the year-end.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the Trustees,

Signature:  Date: 28/10/2024

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 2023	Charity no:	1180553 (Shell charity no.1124941)
Set out on pages	7 to 10		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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

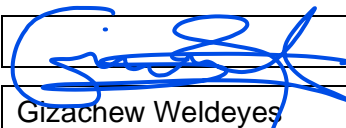
I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the ACCA.

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:

26/10/2024

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 2023

	NOTE	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Incoming resources			
Income from:			
Donations	4	319,915	225,144
Charitable Activities	5	159,259	162,495
Total		479,174	387,639
 Resources expended			
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	6	80,427	70,459
Charitable Activities	7	215,219	85,758
Total		295,647	156,217
 Net income		183,527	231,422
 Total funds brought forward		2,064,958	1,833,537
 Total funds carried forward		2,248,485	2,064,958

ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO DEBRE GENET HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN LONDON

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	NOTE	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets	2	1,953,277	1,977,160
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		1,953,277	1,977,160
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and on hand	3	1,142,436	972,540
Prepayments		1,652	1,834
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,144,088	974,374
LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due with in one year		624	10,000
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,143,464	964,374
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		3,096,741	2,941,534
Creditors:Amount falling due after more than one year		848,256	876,576
NET ASSETS		2,248,485	2,064,958
REPRESENTED BY			
Reserves			
Income and Expenditure Statement		2,248,485	2,064,958
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		2,248,485	2,064,958

ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO DEBRE GENET HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN LONDON
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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

	TOTAL	TOTAL
Note 2	2023	2022
Tangible Assets	£	£
Building	2,050,000	2,050,000
Equipment	13,532	13,532
Less:Accumulated Depreciation Building	97,375	76,875
Less:Accumulated Depreciation Equipment	12,880	9,497
	1,953,277	1,977,160

Note 3

Cash at bank and on hand

Cash at bank	1,127,490	971,970
Cash on hand	14,946	570
	1,142,436	972,540

Note 4

Donations

Members Contributions	293,789	197,051
Tithe and Gift	26,126	28,093
	319,915	225,144

ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO DEBRE GENET HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN LONDON

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	TOTAL	TOTAL
	2023	2022
	£	£
Note 5		
Charitable activities		
Baptism Certificates	7,200	7,820
Sunday School	1,439	2,921
Marriage Certificates	1,210	300
Funeral Prayers	4,440	5,282
Prayers	3,290	1,725
Sales	60,546	43,539
Gift Aid	12,120	0
Annual Conference	0	12,872
Collections	69,014	88,035
	159,259	162,495

Note 6

Cost of raising funds

Allowances	64,275	61,511
Conference	0	0
Feasts	0	0
Telephone	716	626
Postage, Stationery, Printing and church materials	13,292	7,232
Others	2,144	1,090
	80,427	70,459

Note 7

Cost of charitable activities

Insurance	8,331	8,906
Cleaning	2,806	2,047
Subscription	0	144
Water, Gas and Electricity	76,965	2,985
Travel and Transport	0	100
Bank Charges and Bank Interest	72,998	44,449
Repairs and Maintenance	30,237	3,245
Donation and Gifts	0	0
Legal and Professional	0	0
Depreciation	23,883	23,883
	215,219	85,758