

Debresina Mariyam Eritrean Orthodox Christian Community Church

Annual Report and Accounts

For the Year Ended 30 September 2024

Charity registration number: 1200432

08/07/2025

DEBRESINA MARIYAM ERITREAN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Annual Report for the year ended 30th September 2024

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DEBRESINA MARIAM ST MARY ERITREAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH,

DEBRESINA MARIYAM ERITREAN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Annual Report for the year ended 30th September 2024

Members of the Board of Trustees on 30 September 2024

Rev Hadgu Yemane Tesfay

Mr Mulubrha Berhie Bahta

Mr Yohannes Petros Berhane

Mr Bereket Yohannes

Charity name:

Debresina Mariyam Eritrean Orthodox Christian Community Church

Charity registration number:

1200432

Registered Address: as of July 30, 2024

Debresina Mariyam EOCCC

Shipcote Terrace

Gateshead

NE8 4AA

DEBRESINA MARIAM ST MARY ERITREAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH,

DEBRESINA MARIYAM ERITREAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Annual Report for the year ended 30th September 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

The Board of Trustees presents its report of Debresina Mariyam Eritrean Orthodox Church (St Mary) for the year ended 30/09/2024 from 01/10/2023. The financial statements have been prepared following relevant account policies and compliance with the charity's governing document and applicable law- the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Report) Regulation 2008 and the latest Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORN) Financial Reporting Standard 102, As amended.

Name, Objectives and Activities

Name

The name of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("the CIO") is Debresina Mariyam Eritrean Orthodox Christian Community Church. The acronym of the CIO is EOTCCC.

Objectives

To advance the Eritrean Orthodox Christian religion for the benefit of the public through holding prayer meetings, lectures, public celebrations of religious festivals, and producing and distributing literature on the Eritrean Orthodox religion to enlighten others about the Eritrean Christian Orthodox religion.

Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document.

Activities

In compliance with their duty under the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have due regard to guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission. In particular, the Act requires the Trustees to explain how the activities of the charity benefit the public or a section of it.

The Trustees believe that the fundamental purpose of the Debresina Mariyam Eritrean Orthodox Christian Community Church is to advance the Christian religion and relieve poverty and distress from family members. Faith is important, not just for its intrinsic value to the individual, but because it is also often the motivating factor in enabling people to turn their lives around; and equipping them to make effective and relevant contributions to society.

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More specific benefits to the public are demonstrated under the various sections of the report of activities.

Trustees aim constantly to seek ways of increasing the impact and effectiveness of the charity so that they can expand the benefits provided by the charity as widely as possible.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is governed by a Board of Trustees who are responsible for overall strategic direction, governance, and compliance with legal and regulatory obligations.

Day-to-day operations and activities are managed by the Executive Management Committee, also known as the Parish Church Council. This committee oversees the organisation and delivery of services, pastoral care, events, and the general administration of the church.

The Trustees and the Executive Committee work closely together to ensure that the Charity remains aligned with its objectives and continues to meet the needs of its congregation and the wider community.

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Appointment of charity trustees

1. Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.
2. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Every three years the Management Committee may nominate a new Trustees from amongst the membership of the congregation. At the third of their term, Trustees must retire from office but may be re-elected by members of the charity.

Any person who subscribes to the objects may become a member of the charity, subject to their willingness and fitness for purpose.

The Board of Trustees and the Management Committee is responsible for identifying and proposing potential new Trustees. The Committee gives relevant information to potential candidates, and induction and training as appropriate to newly elected Trustees.

The officers of the charity have the responsibility of assessing the skills of the nominates candidates and identifying areas which need strengthening.

Organisation

The charity is based in the United Kingdom and has been providing services in the North East Of England. Its congregation comes from all parts of Tyne and Wear. The Board of Trustees meets at least quarterly.

The Management committee conducts the day-to-day running of the charity's activity and reports to the trustees regularly about the administration and activities of the charity.

DEBRESINA MARIAM ST MARY ERITREAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH,

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Achievements and Performance

The past year has been a significant and transformative period for our church. Despite ongoing challenges in securing a suitable venue in previous years, we are grateful to report that in 2024, the Charity successfully acquired a permanent place of worship. This milestone has allowed us to deepen our service to the community and expand our religious and pastoral activities.

Throughout the year, the church continued to provide weekly Sunday Mass services. Following the appointment of a permanent priest in May 2023, the regular weekly prayer service was elevated to a full Mass service, including Holy Communion. This spiritual enrichment has strengthened the faith life of our congregation.

The church also held services during major fasting periods in the Holy Week, as well as regular christenings and wedding ceremonies. These events form an integral part of our religious mission and community life.

Our work remains rooted in volunteer support. From welcoming worshippers to assisting in services and midweek activities, volunteers from members of the congregation have continued to play a vital role in sustaining the life and work of the church. We are deeply thankful for their ongoing commitment and service.

We remain blessed by strong ecumenical ties with other Eritrean Orthodox churches in the UK and with our sister Oriental Orthodox communities, including the Coptic Orthodox Church, Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and the Indian Orthodox Church. These relationships provide mutual encouragement, unity, and shared purpose in faith.

The trustees are confident that, with God's guidance and the continued support of our members, the new building will serve as a lasting spiritual home and a foundation for future growth and service.

Since appointing a permanent priest in May 2023, the Church now holds weekly Mass services with Holy Communion, replacing the previous monthly format.

At present, Sunday services remain the core of our religious activity. While no additional regular services are in place currently, the board of trustees continue to encourage the Parish Church Council to explore and organise further opportunities for worship, fellowship, and community engagement in the future.

Volunteers continue to play a key role in supporting services and church activities. Pastoral care is also ongoing, offering spiritual and practical support to those in need.

DEBRESINA MARIAM ST MARY ERITREAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH,

DEBRESINA MARIYAM ERITREAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Annual Report for the year ended 30th September 2024

Financial Overview

For the year ending 21 September 2024, the Charity recorded a net operating loss of £96,265 (2023: surplus of £97,092). This variance is primarily due to the strategic purchase of a permanent place of worship during the financial year, representing a significant long-term investment in the future of the church.

Despite the operating loss, the Charity continues to maintain a stable financial foundation. This is thanks to the unwavering generosity of our congregation, as well as the broader Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church community across the UK, who provided vital financial support during this period of growth and transition.

Property Acquisition & Loan Support

In 2024, the Charity purchased a property for £552,954. This achievement marks a major milestone in our development and provides a permanent spiritual and community home for our members. The acquisition was funded through church reserves, community fundraising, and loans, including £150,000 from Associate Eritrean Orthodox Churches and £86,000 from Newcastle members. We are managing repayments responsibly and remain focused on long-term sustainability.

Plans for 2024/2025

- Develop the new building for regular worship and church community use.
- Introduce additional services such as Sunday school services, midweek prayers, evening prayers during fasting periods and/or Bible study.
- Strengthen volunteer capacity through recruitment and training.
- Continue fundraising to support loan repayments and building improvements.
- Enhance community ties and ecumenical relationships with other Orthodox churches.

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**DEBRESINA MARIYAM ERITREAN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Annual Report for the year ended 30th September 2024

Members of the Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees who served as directors during 2024 were:

Rev Hadgu Yemane Tesfay

Mr Mulubrha Berhie Bahta

Mr Yohannes Petros Berhane

Mr Bereket Yohannes

Statement of Financial Responsibilities

Charity Law requires the members of the Board of Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the situation of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources for that year. It is also the Trustees' responsibility to maintain adequate accounting records, safeguard the assets of the charity and take reasonable steps in preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and

By the order of the Board of Trustees

Mulubrhan Bahta



Chair of the trustees

30 September 2024

DEBRESINA MARIAM ST MARY ERITREAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH,

DEBRESINA MARIYAM ERITREAN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Annual Report for the year ended 30th September 2024

Independent examiner's report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL
ACTIVITIES

DEBRESINA MARIYAM ERITREAN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

For the year ended 30 September 2024

In accordance with instructions given to us we have prepared without carrying out an audit the annexed financial statements from the accounting records of DEBRESINA MARIYAM ERITREAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH from information and explanations supplied to us.

Flannagans Gateshead
Chartered Certified Accountants
7 Bankside
The Watermark
Metro Riverside Park
Gateshead
Tyne and Wear
NE11 9SY

DEBRESINA MARIAM ST MARY ERITREAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH,

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CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Annual Report for the year ended 30th September 2024

Financial Review:

**Statement of financial activities
Including income and expenditure account
for the year ended 21 September 2024**

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Donations		111,117		108,518
Donations for purchase of church building		160,303		
Members subscriptions		9,190		7,666
Interest received gross		1,813		372
Loans receipts from Associate churches		150,000		
Loans receipts from Newcastle Members		86,000		
		<u>518,424</u>		<u>116,557</u>
Cost of generating funds				
Trade, refuse and cleaning			4,114	
Transportation cost for priest/pope	2,616		6,452	
Food and beverage for the congregations	6,297		5,528	
Hire of hall for church services	2,000		5,710	
Insurance	3,579			
Gift			710	
Advertisement	2,159			
Equipment for the church	10,234		2,400	
Purchase of property	552,954			
Staff cost	17,327		6,890	
Uniform	630			
Repair, maintenance & renewals	12,583			
Heat & light	4,309			
Printing, postage and stationery	0		166	
		<u>614,689</u>		<u>31,970</u>
Net income for the year		<u>-96,265</u>		<u>84,587</u>
Cash funds last year end		157,948		73,361
Cash funds this year end		<u>61,683</u>		<u>157,948</u>

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

DEBRESINA MARIYAM ERITREAN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

1200432

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	22.09.2023	To	21.09.2024
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

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members subscriptions	9,190	-	-	9,190	7,666
Donations from congregations	111,117	-	-	111,117	24,642
Donations toward purch of building	160,303	-	-	160,303	83,876
Gross interest received	1,813	-	-	1,813	373
Loans receipts from Associate churches	150,000	-	-	150,000	-
Loans receipts from Newcastle Members	86,000	-	-	86,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	518,424	-	-	518,424	116,557
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	518,424	-	-	518,424	116,557
A3 Payments					
Repair, maintenance & renewals	12,583	-	-	12,583	-
Insurance	3,579	-	-	3,579	-
Transportation cost for priest/pope	2,616	-	-	2,616	6,452
Food for the congregation	6,297	-	-	6,297	5,528
Hire of hall for church services	2,000	-	-	2,000	5,710
Uniform	630	-	-	630	-
Gift to priest/pope	-	-	-	-	710
Light & heating	4,309	-	-	4,309	-
Furniture for the church	10,234	-	-	10,234	2,400
Wages for the priest	17,327	-	-	17,327	6,890
Printing, stamp & stationery	-	-	-	-	166
Orthodox church fee	-	-	-	-	2,000
Charity registration fee	-	-	-	-	700
Trade, refuse & cleaning	-	-	-	-	519
Advertisement	2,159	-	-	2,159	-
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	495
Purchase of building (Church)	552,954	-	-	552,954	-
Sub total	614,689	-	-	614,689	31,970
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	614,689	-	-	614,689	31,970
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 96,265	-	-	- 96,265	84,587
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	157,949	-	-	157,949	73,362
Cash funds this year end	61,684	-	-	61,684	157,949

DEBRESINA MARIYAM ERITREAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Annual Report for the year ended 30th September 2024

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in hand	-	-	-
	Bank account (1)	28,302	-	-
	Bank account (2)	33,382	-	-
	Total cash funds	61,684	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Fixtures and fittings, machinery	15,336.26	-	-
		-	-	-
	Church building	552,954.40	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Loans receipts for Li Loans receipts from As	150,000.00	-	
	Loans receipts for Li Loans receipts from Ne	86,000.00	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		Mulubrhan Bahta		03/03/2025
		Yohannes Birhane		03/03/2025

CCXX R2 accounts (SS)

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03/03/2025

DEBRESINA MARIAM ST MARY ERITREAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH,

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CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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For the year ending 2023, the charity has taken advantage of the audit exemption conferred by section 477 of the Company Act 2006. No member has required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question following section 476.

The trustees acknowledge the responsibility for:

(1) Ensuring the charity keeps accounting records which comply with the requirements of the Act, and

(2) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the situation of the charity as at the of this financial year following requirements of the Companies Act and related Charity Acts as far as applicable to the charity. The accounts and the financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 13 December 2023.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Mulubrhan Baht



Chair of the Trustees.

09 July 2025

DEBRESINA MARIAM ST MARY ERITREAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH,