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In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit One God, Amen.

**London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel  
Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (LDSMSG EOTC)**

## **Trustees' Annual Report 31 March 2024**

**Charity number: 1204868**

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## **London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church**

### **Trustees Report**

#### **Church Background**

London Debre Semayat Medhanealem and St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Church (LDSMSG EOTC) was consecrated on Miazia 15 1984 E.C ( 23rd April 1994) in London according to the faith and tradition of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church by the late His Grace Archbishop Abuna (Abba) Gorgoryoes Nbbabe Meleket who was the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Patriarchate Principal Office Chief Secretary, Archbishop of London & it's Affiliated Areas and a Member of the Holy Synod.

The passing of His Grace in March 2020 meant that services were interrupted for three years after his passing. The Church was registered as a CIO in September 2023 and restarted service with the blessing of His Grace Abba Yacob, Archbishop of the Diocese of United Kingdom and Ireland in October 2023.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC) accepts the Nicene Creed, and its followers believe in one, holy, universal, and apostolic Church. Accordingly, the Patriarch of the EOTC is the successor of the Holy Apostles, and as such is Entrusted by The Holy Spirit and the EOTC to oversee it and to preside over its Holy Synod which is the highest legislative and executive authority. The Archbishops, Bishops and Episcopos of each Diocese are appointed by the Holy Synod to oversee parish churches found within their Diocesan territory.

LDSMSG EOTC is part of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church under the direct jurisdiction of the Diocese of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

The Parish Administration Council members (Trustees) are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Church's activities and the financial and legal aspects of the charity.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The object of the Church is the advancement of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Christian faith in accordance with the principles and regulations of the EOTC. The Church propagates the Gospel of Christ through the administration of Sacraments of the Church, regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching in accordance with the rites of the EOTC.

Equally important is the role of the Church in teaching and educating members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo believers and others in the doctrine and practices of the Church and accepting and baptising those who freely adopt the Ethiopian Orthodox Christian faith. In addition, the Church aims to provide assistance to those in need regardless of membership of the Church.

It is also the object of the Church to, when the time is right, provide of a Monastery which will keep and preserve the Holy Monastic life practiced by the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church.



## **London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church**

### **Achievements and Performance**

Resumption of services after three years interruption was the major achievement of the year. Abune Gorgoryoes asked the members of the Church to ensure that the Church and its good work continues. In its 30 years existence, the Church provided a place of worship to its congregation providing liturgical services, prayers and performance of sacraments of the Church. The Church did not reach the threshold for registration therefore remained an unregistered charity.

The registration was completed in September 2023. The Parish Administration Council (PAC) of the Church was able to secure the shared use of St. John's Church in Fulham. The PAC carried out refurbishment work to our allocated storage space as well as purchasing furnishings and vestments to enable the resumption of services. The Church was blessed by His Grace Abba Yacob, Archbishop of the Diocese of United Kingdom and Ireland on the 23 of October 2023.

Since the resumption of services, liturgical services were carried out every Saturday, on the feast days of Medhanealem and St. Gabriel as well as on all major annual celebrations. The Church carried out an average of 6 liturgical services each month for the last six months as well as two annual celebrations which were well attended. The Church congregation is growing and it is serving existing members who have been with the Church for many years as well as welcoming new members. A Sunday School was established to teach children and young adults tenets of the Orthodox Tewahedo faith and language skills to give them understanding of their faith and allow them to fully take part and contribute to the Church and the community they live in. The Church also provides pastoral care to its congregation as well as visiting the sick and imprisoned and to praying for the living, the dead and the whole world. Having secured a rental building, the PAC is continuing His Grace's work to buy a permanent building for the Church.

### **Overall benefit and impact to the community**

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.

The Churches religious services are a source of comfort and healing to its congregation. The church plays significant role in the lives of its members and the wider community as a pillar of their belief system, values and identity. The Church acts as a health and wellbeing hub by providing direct or indirect benefit to the challenges and risks faced by members. This includes addressing challenges of isolation, age and migration.

The church also provides religious and language education to young people contributing towards a positive all rounded development and citizenship. It also provides an immeasurable amount of social capital by bringing likeminded people together to link and support each other.

The above spiritual and social services provided by the church contributes to the overall society by meeting the needs of the community in a culturally appropriate and holistic way. Such service, creates community harmony, and on the other hand will reduce some of the cost burden of addressing needs of community members within the wider society.

**London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church**

**Acknowledgements**

We thank God first for giving us the means and opportunity to serve His Church.

We also thank him for the time we had with the late His Grace Archbishop Abuna (Abba) Gorgoryoes Nbbabe Meleket. He founded our Church, led by example, thought us about love for one another, unity, true service, endurance, the power of prayer and true worship. May His blessings be upon us.

We would also like to give special thanks to the United Kingdom and Ireland Diocese and to London Debre Genet Holy Trinity Church both of whom supported us during the particularly difficult time after the passing of His Grace and during the three years transition period until the Church services resumed. We are truly grateful.

The PAC would also like to thank all our clergies who serve our Church with dedication and passion in keeping with the traditions and teachings of His Grace. The Trustees are grateful to everyone who participated in different forms to benefit the Church, including the Sunday school services and all other activities which contribute to the development of the Church.

**Financial Review**

The church had carried forward funds of £62k in cash as of March 2020. The total cost of keeping Church assets in storage for the three years to September 2023 was £12k. The remaining £49k has been transferred by the Trustees and recognised as other income in the newly established CIO. During the year, the Church had income from donations and Charitable activities of £69k. The total income for the year was £118k. Total expenditure for the year was £29k which includes costs relating to storage, rent, allowances and re-opening costs.

**Reserves policy**

The PAC's policy is to maintain sufficient funds equivalent to £15k, if possible, which equates to approximately 6 months, to cover rent, clergy allowance, and any emergencies that may arise occasionally. The balance of designated and restricted funds of £74k is held for securing a permanent building for the Church.

**Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the Trustees,

Signature: 

Date: 28.01.25

**Reverend Samuel Kassa**



**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LONDON DEBRE SEMAYAT  
MEDHANEALEM & ST. GABRIEL ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHEDO CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 23 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 31  
MARCH 2024**

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel Ethiopian orthodox Tewahedo church for the six months period ended 31 March 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity 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 Charities accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

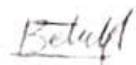
**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Belaynesh Hailemariam  
FCCA  
BE Smart Finance Ltd  
74 Holland Road  
London  
W14 8BN

London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church

**LONDON DEBRE SEMAYAT MEDHANEALEM & ST. GABRIEL ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHEDO CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 23 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024**

	NOTE	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	TOTAL 2024 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Income from:					
Donations	2	51,110			51,110
Charitable activities	3	18,349			18,349
Other income	4	-		49,432	49,432
<b>Total</b>		<b>69,459</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,432</b>	<b>118,891</b>
 <b>Resources expended</b>					
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	5	29,417			29,417
<b>Total</b>		<b>29,417</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,417</b>
 <b>Net Income</b>		<b>40,042</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,432</b>	<b>89,474</b>
 <b>Transfers</b>	10				
Transfers (from) funds		(25,042)			(25,042)
Transfers to funds			25,042		25,042
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>		<b>15,000</b>	<b>25,042</b>	<b>49,432</b>	<b>89,474</b>

London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church

**LONDON DEBRE SEMAYAT MEDHANEALEM & ST. GABRIEL ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHEDO CHURCH  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	NOTES	2024 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Tangible Assets	6	8,765
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>8,765</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash at bank and on hand	7	76,095
Debtors	8	6,484
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>82,579</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Amounts falling due in one year	9	1,870
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>80,709</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>89,474</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>		
Unrestricted Reserves	10	15,000
Designated Reserves	10	25,042
Restricted Reserves	10	49,432
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		<b>89,474</b>



## **London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church**

### **Notes**

#### **1. ACCOUNTING POUICIES**

##### **1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts, and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (as amended for accounting period commencing 1 January 2016) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006; and the Charities Act 2011.

London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

##### **1.2 Charity status**

The Charity is registered as a CIO on 23 September 2023. It is governed by its Trustees.

##### **1.3 Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Where there are designated funds, it comprises unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for purposes.

Where there are restricted funds, it would be funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

##### **1.4 Going concern**

The charity's financial plan and projection show that Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charities ability to continue as a going concern. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

##### **1.5 Incoming resources**

Income is recognised once the charitable company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of Income receivable can be measured reliably.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

## London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church

### Notes (continued)

#### 1.6 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party. It is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Charitable activities are costs incurred on the church's operations.

#### 1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year.

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is not charged on freehold land.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings, and equipment over five years.

#### 1.8 Taxation

As a registered charity, London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable

#### 1.9 Leasing and hire purchase

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible fixed assets. Assets acquired by finance lease are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Assets financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account so as to produce a constant periodic rate of charge on the net obligation outstanding in each period.

#### 1.10 Cash at Bank and In hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. The Charity has an opening cash balance £62,017 from previous years fund raising activities.

#### 1.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Utilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church

Notes (continued)

	<b>TOTAL 2024 £</b>
<b>2. DONATIONS</b>	
Members contributions	31,701
Tithes and Offerings	19,409
	<u>51,110</u>
<b>3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	
Collections	12,045
Gift aid	6,304
	<u>18,349</u>
<b>4. OTHER INNCOME</b>	
B/f funds of old charity April 2020	62,017
Add: Income from monthly gatherings	5,910
Less: monthly gathering expenses	(5,910)
Less: Storage costs 3 years to August 2023	(12,585)
Fund transferred from old charity Sep-23	<u>49,432</u>
<b>5. COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	
Allowances	15,329
Administrative costs	828
Donation	1,586
Fixtures and Fittings	3,262
Rent & Storage	8,412
	<u>29,417</u>
<b>6. FIXED ASSETS</b>	
Fixtures and fittings	<u>8,765</u>
<b>7. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</b>	<u>76,095</u>
<b>8. DEBTORS</b>	
Accrued income - giftaid	6,304
Other	180
	<u>6,484</u>
<b>9. LIABILITIES</b>	
Accrued expenditure	1,870
	<u>1,870</u>



London Debre Semayat Medhanealem & St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church

Notes (continued)

10. RESERVES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	TOTAL
	Building Fund	Building Fund	Building Fund	2024
	£	£	£	£
Opening reserves				
Surplus in the year	40,042	-	49,432	89,474
Transfers	(25,042)	25,042		-
Carried forward balance	15,000	25,042	49,432	89,474