

Charity Registration Number : 1208729

**ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX
TEWAHDO CHURCH TEESSIDE**

TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

**ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH
TEESSIDE**

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees	Kidane Andemariam(Chair) Hermon Tedros Mehari Kibreab Andemariam Okubaslasie Mengstab
Charity Number	1208729
Registered Office	ST. JOSEPHS Church PARK ROAD SOUTH MIDDLESBROUGH TS4 2RB
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 22 Springfield Road Middlesbrough Cleveland TS5 4LT
Independent Examiner	Abiel Woldu

**ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH
TEESSIDE**

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ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH TEESSIDE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The Trustees are responsible for the governance of the charity and serve as Trustees of the charity. The Trustees who were in place at year-end and all those who served during the year are set out on this page.

Structure, governance & management

The charity is governed by its CIO constitution adopted upon registration and in accordance with the canons and ecclesiastical guidance of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church, where consistent with UK charity law.

The charity originated in 2018 as a voluntary faith community association supporting Eritrean Orthodox Christians in Teesside. It became formally registered as a CIO in June 2024, and all assets and funds of the former association were transferred into the CIO.

Trustees are elected by congregation members. Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee is appointed by a resolution passed at a formally convened meeting of the charity trustees.

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. Therefore, Trustees receive induction and support to ensure understanding of charity duties, safeguarding of assets, financial controls, and public benefit obligations.

Trustees during the period:

Kidane Andemariam (Chair)

Hermon Tedros Mehari

Kibreab Andemariam

Okubaslasie Mengstab

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES:

Charitable object

To advance the Christian Orthodox religion for the benefit of the public in the Tees Valley through worship, religious teaching, celebration of festivals, and community fellowship.

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Main activities in 2024

Religious education and youth faith instruction.

Community support and pastoral care, including in times of bereavement.

Cultural and language preservation for young people.

Fellowship gatherings and celebration of religious festivals.

Pilgrimage group visits and inter-church collaboration.

Key achievements

Introduced a strategic plan to secure a permanent church building.

Successfully fundraised restricted contributions for building acquisition.

Increased volunteer participation to support worship & community services.

Developed and approved core operational and governance policies.

Held eight Holy Liturgies and administered Holy Communion to congregation members as part of regular worship services in six months, an increase from before becoming a CIO.

Baptized seven children and performed marriage sacrament services for one member of the congregation during the period.

More services are held locally rather than travelling to other cities.

Community support is delivered to families during hardship and bereavement.

Organized group pilgrimage and annual feast celebration.

Celebrated the new ecclesiastical year together as a congregation.

Financial Review

The charity's financial position remains regular and stable, supported by members' generosity.

Restricted funds

Significant restricted funds were raised for the purpose of acquiring a permanent church building. These funds may only be used for this purpose.

Opening balances

The CIO received a total of £86,729.33 in assets from the former unincorporated community association (*cash at bank & on hand:£59,649.03, stock items valued:£3,500, cash with police authority: £23,580.30*).

These have been treated as opening reserves rather than current-year income.

Reserves policy

The charity aims to hold appropriate reserves to support core worship activities, growth plans, and property aspirations whilst maintaining stewardship and transparency.

Going concern

The trustees consider the charity a going concern based on cash reserves and committed member support.

Plans for 2025

Continue governance strengthening per the Charity Commission Action Plan.

Secure a larger permanent place of worship.

Recruit additional trustees and volunteers.

Expand youth and community support programmes

Increase income by 10% to 15% through planned giving & stewardship.

Deliver training in safeguarding & financial governance.

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:

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Kidane Andemariam
Chairman

Date : **30 October 2025**

ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH TEESSIDE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Mary Astereyo Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church Teesside

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which consists of the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and the related notes

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000; therefore, the accounts and corresponding notes are subject for Independent Examination.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

Name: Abiel Woldu, Date: **30 October 2025**

**ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH
TEESSIDE**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	14,202.51	153,520.00	167,722.51
Total		14,202.51	153,520.00	167,722.51
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	3	634.13	-	634.13
Total		634.13	-	634.13
Net income		13,568.38	153,520.00	167,088.38
Net movement in funds		13,568.38	153,520.00	167,088.38
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		-	86,729.33	86,729.33
Total funds carried forward		13,568.38	240,249.33	253,817.71

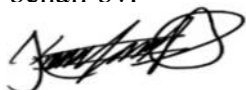
ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH TEESSIDE

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Total Funds 2024 £
Current assets		
Stocks		3,500.00
Debtors	5	23,580.3
Cash at bank and in hand	6	226,870.74
Total current assets		253,951.04
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	133.33
Net current assets/(liabilities)		253,817.71
Total net assets		253,817.71
Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted funds	8	13,568.38
Restricted income funds	8	240,249.33
Endowment funds	8	-
Total funds		253,817.71

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 30 October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Kidane Andemariam
Chairman

Date : 30 October 2025

ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH TEESSIDE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by the Charity, which is a public benefit entity, in the preparation of the accounts are as follows.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of charitable properties and fixed asset investments and investment properties at valuation.

These accounts have been prepared 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)” (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

These accounts are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into consideration the current economic conditions and have, at the time of approving these accounts, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

2. Income from Donations and Legacies

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations – General (Cash & Online)	9,532.51	-	9,532.51
Donation- Special Event Donations	-	153,520.00	153,520.00
Membership Income	4,670.00	-	4,670.00
Total	14,202.51	153,520.00	167,722.51

3. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Analysis	Total funds 2024
	£
Rent and Rates	533.33
Total	533.33
Support Costs	100.80
	634.13

4. Support Costs

Analysis	Total funds 2024
	£
Support Costs	
Governance Costs	
Insurance	100.80
	100.80

5. Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Total funds 2024
	£
Other debtors	23,580.30
Total	23,580.30

Cash held by a third party:

During the year, £23,580.30 of charitable funds was temporarily seized by law enforcement as part of an investigation, before the charity was registered for CIO with the Charity Commission. Trustees fully cooperated with authorities and provided evidence confirming the funds belonged to the charity. After year-end, the funds were returned in full on 11 June 2025. As the trustees considered recovery probable at the year-end, the balance has been recognized as a receivable.

6. Cash at bank and in hand

	Total funds 2024
	£
Petty Cash Account	50.00
Lloyds Bank	226,820.74
Total	226,870.74

7. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Total funds 2024
	£
Accruals and deferred income	133.33
Total	133.33

8. Charity funds

8.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward £	Income	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Unrestricted funds						
General Fund	-	14,202.51	634.13	-	-	13,568.38
Unincorporated Body	50.00	-	-	-	-	50.00
Restricted income funds						
Restricted Income Funds	-	153,520.00	-	-	-	153,520.00
Total	50.00	167,722.51	634.13	-	-	167,138.38