

St. Korkos Orthodox Church
and Eritrean's Community
in Birmingham

Annual Report

2018-2019

Legal and administration information

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

Full Name of the Charity:

St. Korkos Orthodox Church and Eritreans' Community in Birmingham

Charity Registration Number

1174445

Charity current address

St. James Church
38 Florence Road, Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 OHN

Charity correspondence address

Amanuel Fessahaye
94 Lower Beeches Road
Birmingham
B31 5JA

Trustees:

Elected trustees

Dawit Belay
Amanuel Fessahaye
Binyam Eyasu
Tsige Tekhle
Gherezghiher kflemariam
Mebahtom Weldemikall

Independent Examiner

Diamond Accountants and General Services limited
Office 3, 465 Coventry Road
Birmingham
B10 0TJ

Banker

Natwest and Barclays in Birmingham office

Structure Governance and Management

The members of St. Korkos Orthodox church are currently meeting at St James Church in Handsworth. The trustees are a body that manage the charity's activity in line with the internal memorandum and the rules set by the charity commission. The trustees of the charity are elected by the members. Members are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the trustees.

Our Charity

The number of Asylum seekers and refugees arriving in the UK has been increasing from time to time. Most of these asylum seekers experience home sickness and face difficulties in integration with the UK environment, mainly because of the trauma they have experienced back home and, on their way, overseas. Some members of our community have been voluntarily assisting them by providing the basic information and guidance. This initiative has been advanced to organise the community and managed to set up a charity which was registered with the charity commission in August 2017. We are working on assisting the community in providing religious and other community services. We have started to support some children with their home learning and give necessary guidance for their 11+ entrance examinations and GCSE's. We have also planned to provide wide range of services for the members of our charity and others who may need it.

Despite of our plans, we have been challenged in fulfilling our objectives, mainly due to a lack of permanent place. On many occasions our service has been interrupted due to the unanticipated plans of the owners of the place we are renting. To resolve this, our congregation has planned to secure a permanent place for our congregation. In this effect, our management has tried to get a loan for buying a property from the bank, yet we have been unsuccessful due to their policies and requirements. As a result, our managing committee has organised a fund-raising campaign amongst the members and encouraged them to set up a direct debit to contribute any amount to the charity which is entirely based on their willingness. So far, we are doing very well, and we will continue to raise funds as may be necessary.

St. Korkos Orthodox Church and Eritreans' Community in
Birmingham

Annual General meeting

Held on Sunday 28th April 2019

Apologies

There were no apologies.

The meeting was conducted after mass and was opened with prayer.

Mr Belay thanked everyone for the hard work done in the year. He had also mentioned that a great deal of hard work is expected from everyone in the coming financial year to provide better services and buy our own property for the charity.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (22nd April 2018) were read out by Mrs Tekhle, the accountant of the charity.

The minutes were proposed and accepted by Dawit and Amanuel and all were in favour.

Activities

A report for the religious and other services provided in the year has been reported by Mr Fessahaye and all the members agree the report.

Health and safety

In relation to health and safety it has been highlighted that we have been able to manage any issues that could potentially create health and safety-related problems. Mr Belay has highlighted that all who work with vulnerable people has been monitored in accordance to the guidelines. He stressed on, and any issues in relation to safety must be reported on time. He has reminded all that the necessary policies like insurance and having a DBS must be updated constantly.

Election of new trustees

Mr Fessahaye has brought to the attention of the participants, the need for election of new trustees for the charity and a call to be made to every member of the charity to announce that the time for current trustees is coming to an end and that new trustees are to be elected. During an internal meeting, there were a few suggestions that some members of the trust are highly qualified to do the tasks and that it was better not to replace them. All had shared the idea, but Mr Belay insisted that a proper election should be made and advised that the congregation should decide on what they need.

Relation with our bankers

Our main bank is Natwest, where all our transaction is done through this bank account. Our few attempts to get a loan for buying a property have not been successful. Mr. Fessahaye has highlighted the reasons for the failure and suggested the measures that need to be taken to put our position on better position in order to secure loan for the acquisition of a property.

Acquisition of property

This subject was extensively discussed in relation to mortgage availability from banks. Mr Belay assigns the task to My Fessahaye to follow this up and deal with the bank. He has also highlighted the need for another campaign to strengthen our financial position and everyone has agreed on the matter and proposed a plan of action.

Financial report

Mrs Tekhle presented the finance report, she explained that our income has significantly increased and the reason for this is the contribution of members with the intention to help in the motive of buying a property and addition of new members. Our major expense is monthly rent we pay for the property we are currently using. All other recurrent expenses have been covered by the members here and then. We have not been able to set up Gift aid for those people who are taxpayers which give the church extra money. The meeting has addressed this subject and agreed to contact the relevant authority and make follow ups. Dawit has thanked the accounts team for their hard work in handling the weekly and other funds and for keeping our records. He asked if everyone accepted the accounts and this was proposed by Mr Fessahaye and Mr Eyasu and seconded by all the rest.

St Korkos Church and Eritreans community

Financial statement for the year Ended 31 March 2019

	Unrestricted Fund £	restricted Fund	Total 2019	Total 2018
Receipts				
Voluntary receipts:				
Planned & other giving (Building)		16,833.07	16,833.07	5,070.08
Collection at services (offerings)	9,596.09		9,596.09	8,538.03
Members monthly offering	11,895.00		11,895.00	7,615.00
Loan for Church Building		7,000.00	7,000.00	
Activities for generating funds:				
Income from services	1,150.00		1,150.00	2,010.00
Income from sales	600.00		600.00	750.00
Other receipts	105.00		105.00	0.00
Total Receipts	23,346.09	23,833.07	47,179.16	23,983.11
Payments				
Rent Expenses	7,613.50		7,613.50	4,428.50
Others (Insurance)	237.11		237.11	-
Loan for Church Building		7,000.00	7,000.00	
Total Payments	7,850.61	7,000.00	14,850.61	4,428.50
Excess of receipts over payments	15,495.48	16,833.07	32,328.55	19,554.61
Cash at hand and bank 31/03/2018	78,403.41		78,403.41	78,403.41
Cash at hand and bank 31/03/2019	93,898.89	16,833.07	110,731.96	-

St Korkos Church and Eritreans community
Statement of Asset and liability as at 31 March 2019

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund	Total 2019	Total 2018
Cash funds				
Current Account	93,898.89	16,833.07	110,731.96	78,403.41
Cash on Hand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Deposit Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	93,898.89	16,833.07	110,731.96	78,403.41
Less Others outstanding	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	93,898.89	16,833.07	110,731.96	78,403.4
Other Assets				
Noncurrent assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
other assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Assets	93,898.89	16,833.07	110,731.96	78,403.41
Liabilities				
Loan and Payables	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Equity	93,898.89	16,833.07	110,731.96	78,403.41

NB: 1, The £5,070.08 reported as non-restricted funds on our last year financial report need to be amended as restricted funds.

2, All available funds can be applied for acquisitions of a property.

Sunday School

We have a group of children who regularly attend the Sunday school. These children are 20-30 in total. Some of them are born in the UK and some are those who have come over from Eritrea. But our charity is open for everyone. In the Sunday service we try to put the children in classrooms according to their age and level of understanding in religious and other studies. The individuals who are mentoring the children have been DBS checked and all the necessary supervision is made by a designated person in every lessons.

As part of getting together we have taken a group of children to Drayton Manor. Most of the children found the trip engaging, since it was their first time. Our charity is planning to do more trips to Drayton Manor and other recreation centres. We have also made efforts to communicate with other churches to share experiences.

Some highlights

March - April 2018

During this period, we have observed the forty days lent which was followed by Easter. In our Easter service, huge numbers of people attended during the night prayer. The ceremony was completed with joy and lots of blessings.

July 2018

In July we celebrated our main mass at St James church where about 200 families attend. Many people come from different parts of the country to celebrate the event. The event is one of the two big church events carried out in February and July.

January 2019

In January 2019 we celebrated our Christmas. According to our church tradition, Christmas is celebrated in early January.

February 2019

In February we have celebrated our second event in which many people have attended, and it was blessing and has created a good opportunity for getting together with members of other churches.

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