

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



**Trustees' Annual Report for the year  
ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

# 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 Theodrose Negussie
3. Dn Befekadu Feleke
4. Mr Samson Seife Bekele
5. Mr Eyasu Sisay
6. Mr Aynalem Mebratu
7. Mr Berhanie Afework
8. Mr Ephrem Demssie Tekle
9. Dn Dr Dawit Solomon

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

DGHTC was first registered with the Charity Commission as an unincorporated charity in June 2007. Since the church is unincorporated charity it is not a legal body in its own right. Due to this the church has not been able to enter into contracts in its own name or get a loan to purchase a church building. To overcome this problem the Parish Administration Council (Trustees), following a resolution passed by the general assembly, has changed the church structure to Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) (Charity No. 1180553) in November 2018. The original charity will be closed once all assets are transferred to the new charity (CIO). We are in the process of transferring all assets to the new CIO so that we can close the original, unincorporated charity.

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 day-to-day affairs of the church. 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 are 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 in 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 most needy people irrespective of their faith.

The second objective of the church is to help young people to grow into being responsible and dependable citizens. It focuses on teaching and supporting the youth to protect themselves from substance abuse, antisocial behaviour and other distractions through Christian moral teachings and engagement in various religious and social activities to build strong moral integrity that is shared by the church community and the wider society.

The PAC has a responsibility in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. PAC members are charity Trustees. The PAC must ensure compliance with charity law, church (ecclesiastical) law and exercise prudence and a duty of care.

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

### **Permanent Worship Place acquisition**

In our search for a permanent place of worship the church often has to move from place to place, which seriously hampers our organisational structure, numerical growth, and our capacity for civic engagement. Invariably, financial constraints have been the main obstacles to acquire a building of our own.

The PAC and the church Building Committee have actively conducted various fundraising efforts to enable us secure our own place of worship. On 27 March 2019 has completed the purchase St Michael's Church. The value of the church is £2.05M and the PAC has covered the cost through a bank loan, donation and the church deposit. The church members continued to contribute in monthly installments towards the building mortgage payment.

We give thanks to our lord and saviour Jesus Christ for He is good, for His loving kindness and every blessing He has given us.

### **Performance and Achievements**

The Parish Administration Council (PAC) would like to present the following achievements of the church, which were possible only through the Grace of God, and the commitment of our members, volunteers and supporters.

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

In July 2019 we had to leave St John the Baptist, Holland Road, London W14 8AH after the church acquired St. Michael Church St. Michael's Road, Cricklewood, London, NW2 6XG. The average regular weekly attendance was 445 adults and 57 children, and overall attendance fluctuated due to relocation of the church. Our Sunday morning service remains the most highly attended service, and we also have had two regular monthly liturgy services. Over the course of the year we have seen a steady rise in service attendance and it has been a great encouragement to welcome new families to DGHT church.

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

We look to encourage the deepening of faith for all ages, and alongside our services there is a program for young people from crèche through to teenagers to join in with. Children were at the centre of the church activities, and through its Children Services Committee it has worked tirelessly to enable children and young persons to stay safe, healthy, enjoy life and achieve their potential, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.

Our children service progress has been encouraging given relocation of the church. Despite the constraints, the committee has taken several measures to cater for the needs of the children. Our Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry are particularly key to how we help the younger members of our church grow in their faith. A major area in which the Children Service seeks to share the Christian faith and moral values is through the development of continued trainings. These trainings consist of leadership development, leadership in youth ministry, deaconship studies and hosting bible studies program. The main purpose is for them to learn how to make positive influence and contribute to the society, and also helping them to develop in provision of community services.

The church has been offering a range of services during the week and over the course of 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.

Special services at Christmas and Easter were well attended as usual, and other five annual feasts of the church have also been celebrated. As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 187 baptisms and 2 weddings and held 3 funerals in our church this year.

During the season of the Great Lent we were blessed to have mass liturgy, evening prayers and bible studies during weekdays, and morning liturgies on the weekends. The two-weeks fasting period preceding the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady Virgin Mary was also celebrated in a similar manner, with mass liturgy, and evening prayers and bible studies every day. Preaching has been delivered by a variety of people, and has covered various themes during these times.

We continue to share the good news of Jesus through a range of programs and ministries that we run. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gospel Conference was one of the highlights of 2019, for which we have invited Gospel preacher and singer from Ethiopia. The program was held successfully from 07 Aug – 29 August 2019 at our church.

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

Pastoral Care for families as well as for troubled or needy individuals has also been provided through out 2019. In addition to individual guidance and counseling services, our clergies have provided counseling and mediation services to couples and families that are going through difficult times. Our welfare committee has gathered funds for indigent, especially for vulnerable families and individuals, as well as coordinating visitation of the sick, housebound and elderlies. Some members of our parish were unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The clergies have visited all church members who have requested a service, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital.

The DGHTC has continued its ecumenical role by teaching people new to the Orthodox Christian faith, and promoting tolerance in the community for those of other religions and none. Clerical services such as schools and character references, and holy matrimony have also been provided to church members and the wider community.

### **Public Benefit**

The Trustees are aware of the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission and we believe that the activities of the Church that are 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 give special thanks to all clergies of DGHTC who have continued to serve the church with great passion and dedication. We are also grateful for everyone who participated and contributed to the service of the church in various ways.

## Financial review

The annual accounts for 2019 have been prepared and are recommended by the PAC to the Annual General Church Meeting thanks to the exceptional work of our Finance Officers from the Parish Administration Council.

The income of the church increased by about 13% during the year mainly due to increased activity at the Sunday school and increase in gift because of the successful acquisition of the church building.

Rent decreased significantly because the charity bought its own church unlike the previous years. The small amount paid shown in the accounts is rent incurred until the acquisition was completed.

During the current year the church administration observed the following:

Compared to 31 December 2018, total fund has gone up by 9.8%. On the other hand, cash on hand and at bank decreased as a result of buying the church building.

The church administration managed to keep sufficient funds to cover its running costs for over a year and keep it in operational existence for the foreseeable future

The net result for the period is an excess of income over expenditure of £139,519. Including balance brought forward at the beginning of the year, the total funds balance carried forward as at 31 December 2019 is £1,563,334.

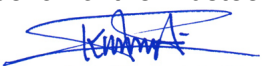
## Reserves policy

It is the PAC's policy to maintain sufficient funds, if possible, which equates to approximately 12 months, to cover mortgage payment, bills, maintenance, clergy allowance and for any emergency situations that may arise from time to time. A balance of £150,000 cash at bank and on hand at the year-end is the target.

## Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the Trustees,

Signature: 

Date: 30/10/2020

**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-London

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31 December 2019

**Charity no**

1180553  
(Shell charity  
no.1124941)

**Set out on pages**

9 to 12

**Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed. (The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ACCA).

It is my responsibility to:

- \* examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- \* to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- \* to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of independent  
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention 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:**

11 October 2020

**Name:**

Gizachew Weldeyes

**Relevant professional  
qualification:**

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 2019**

|   | Note | TOTAL<br>2019<br>£ | TOTAL<br>2018<br>£ |
|---|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Incoming resources</b>                     |      |                    |                    |
| <b>Income from:</b>                           |      |                    |                    |
| Donations                                     | 4    | 185,806            | 147,549            |
| Charitable activities                         | 5    | 108,715            | 112,595            |
| <b>Total</b>                                  |      | <u>294,522</u>     | <u>260,144</u>     |
| <br><b>Resources expended</b>                 |      |                    |                    |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                        |      |                    |                    |
| Raising funds                                 | 6    | 28,953             | 17,773             |
| Charitable activities                         | 7    | 126,050            | 45,592             |
| <b>Total</b>                                  |      | <u>155,003</u>     | <u>63,365</u>      |
| <br><b>Net income</b>                         |      | <u>139,519</u>     | <u>196,779</u>     |
| <br><b>Total funds brought forward</b>        |      | 1,423,815          | 1,227,037          |
| <br><b><i>Total funds carried forward</i></b> |      | <u>1,563,334</u>   | <u>1,423,815</u>   |

**ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO DEBRE GENET HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN LONDON**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**

|  | Note | TOTAL<br>2019<br>£ | TOTAL<br>31 DEC. 18<br>£ |
|--|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                                    |      |                    |                          |
| Tangible Assets  | 2    | 2,034,625          | 0                        |
| <b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>                              |      | <b>2,034,625</b>   | <b>0</b>                 |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                                  |      |                    |                          |
| Cash at bank and on hand                               | 3    | 543,051            | 1,238,815                |
| Prepayments  |      | 2,447              | 0                        |
| Deposit at bank  |      | 0                  | 205,000                  |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>                            |      | <b>545,498</b>     | <b>1,443,815</b>         |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                                     |      |                    |                          |
| Amounts falling due with in one year                   |      | 64,478             | 20,000                   |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>                              |      | <b>481,020</b>     | <b>1,423,815</b>         |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>           |      | <b>2,515,645</b>   | <b>1,423,815</b>         |
| Creditors:Amounts falling due after more than one year |      | 952,311            | 0                        |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                      |      | <b>1,563,334</b>   | <b>1,423,815</b>         |
| <b>REPRESENTED BY</b>                                  |      |                    |                          |
| Reserves   |      |                    |                          |
| Income and Expenditure Statement                       |      | 1,563,334          | 1,423,815                |
| <b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>                               |      | <b>1,563,334</b>   | <b>1,423,815</b>         |

**ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO DEBRE GENET HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN LONDON**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**1 Accounting Policies**

**Bsis of accounting**

The Churches accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the statement of Recomend Practice for Charities (SORP)

**Going Concern**

The Trustees have reviewed the financial plans for the comming year and are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis

**Capitalization and depreciation of tangible fixed assets**

Buildings are initially recorded at cost . Depreciation is calculated at 1% on straight line basis.

|                                   | <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>Note 2</b>                     | <b>2019</b>      | <b>2018</b>  |
| <b>Tangible Assets</b>            | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>     |
| Building                          | 2,050,000        | 0            |
| Accumulated Depreciation Building | 15,375           | 0            |
|                                   | <u>2,034,625</u> | <u>0</u>     |

**Note 3**

**Cash at bank and in hand**

|              | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>         |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| Cash at bank | 543,051        | 1,238,373        |
| Cash on hand | 0              | 442              |
|              | <u>543,051</u> | <u>1,238,815</u> |

**Note 4**

**Donations**

|                      | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Members Contribution | 134,509        | 125,763        |
| Tithe and Gift       | 51,297         | 21,785         |
|                      | <u>185,806</u> | <u>147,549</u> |

**ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO DEBRE GENET HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN LONDON**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

|                              | <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>TOTAL</b>   |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                              | <b>2019</b>    | <b>2018</b>    |
| <b>Note 5</b>                |                |                |
| <b>Charitable activities</b> | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Baptism Certificates         | 1,460          | 1,600          |
| Sunday School                | 11,987         | 632            |
| Marriage Certificates        | 1,500          | 0              |
| Funeral Prayers              | 3,330          | 1,940          |
| Sales                        | 14,320         | 12,679         |
| Annual Conference            | 5,198          | 19,439         |
| Collections                  | 70,921         | 76,155         |
| Others                       | 0              | 150            |
|                              | <u>108,715</u> | <u>112,595</u> |

| <b>Note 6</b>                    |               |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Cost of raising funds</b>     | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>      |
| Allowances                       | 20,995        | 14,215        |
| Conference                       | 0             | 672           |
| Feasts                           | 3,277         | 2,360         |
| Telephone                        | 180           | 72            |
| Postage, Stationery and Printing | 2,101         | 454           |
| Others                           | 2,400         | 0             |
|                                  | <u>28,953</u> | <u>17,773</u> |

| <b>Note 7</b>                        |                |               |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Cost of charitable activities</b> | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>      |
| Rent                                 | 3,320          | 32,341        |
| Building Lease                       | 5,940          | 0             |
| Business rate                        | 0              | -663          |
| Service Charge                       | 0              | 1,809         |
| Insurance                            | 9,624          | 0             |
| Water Rate                           | 0              | 59            |
| Cleaning                             | 779            | 0             |
| Consumables                          | 0              | 420           |
| Removal costs                        | 0              | 583           |
| Equipment                            | 0              | 651           |
| subscription                         | 144            | 0             |
| Gas and Electricity                  | 1,027          | 1,317         |
| Travel and Transport                 | 7,799          | 2,194         |
| Bank Charges                         | 30,863         | 450           |
| Repairs and Maintenance              | 20,446         | 346           |
| Donation and Gifts                   | 0              | 38            |
| Legal and Professional               | 30,734         | 6,045         |
| Depreciation                         | 15,375         | 0             |
|                                      | <u>126,050</u> | <u>45,592</u> |