

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

Annual Report

2019-2020

## **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**

AmanuelFessahaye  
94 Lower Beeches Road  
Birmingham  
B31 5JA

### **Trustees:**

#### **Elected trustees**

Dawit Belay  
AmanuelFessahaye  
BinyamEyasu  
Tsige Tekhle  
GherezghiherKflemariam  
MebahtomWeldemikall

### **Independent Examiner**

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

### **Banker**

**Natwest and Barclays in Birmingham**

## **Structural Governance and Management**

The members of St. Korkos Orthodox Church are currently meeting at St James Church in Handsworth in Birmingham. The trustees are a body that manage the charity's activities, 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 for 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 homesickness and face difficulties in integrating with the UK environment, mainly because of the trauma they have experienced back home and, on their route, overseas. Some members of our community have been voluntarily assisting them by providing 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-based 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 a 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 having a permanent place. On many occasions our service has been interrupted due to the owner's unanticipated plans of 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 the 26th of April 2020

### Apologies

There were no apologies.

The meeting was done virtually and Mr Belay, the chairperson of the charity, opened the meeting with a prayer and thanked everyone for the hard work done in the year. He has mentioned all the religious and other community activities completed during the year. As mentioned in the last general meeting he focused on promoting better service for the community and work hard in fund raising in the aim of buying a property for the charity.

### Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (28<sup>nd</sup> April 2019) were read out by Mr Amanuel Fessahaye, the vice chairperson of the charity. The minutes were proposed and accepted by Dawit 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 agreed with the report.

### Health and safety

The issue of health and safety is one of the top priorities within the charity activities. The charity has been taking all necessary measures to ensure that every service user is safe and the activities at the church are undertaken with diligence and due care. Mr Belay has highlighted that all who work with vulnerable people have been monitored in accordance with 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 policies and DBS must also be updated constantly.

### **Election of new trustees**

The charity believes that the trustees must be elected by the members of the congregation and serve for a duration of three years. However, the service time of all or any member of the trustee can be extended if he/she is re-elected by the congregation. In May 2019, the trustees had called up on a meeting to the congregation for an election of new trustees. The congregation meeting was arranged to be made on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019 for the election. The congregation made a free and fair election and decided that they were happy with the current trustees and approved them to carry on for the next three years. Mr Belay stressed the need of younger generation participation in the management body, and he suggested that they need to assist in many tasks of the trustees so that they can we can handover the tasks to them easily in the future.

### **Our bankers**

Our main bank is NatWest, where our most of our transaction is done through this bank. In addition, we also have a bank account with Barclays bank.

### **Acquisition of property**

We have been using different addresses for our meeting since we started the charity. Moving from place to place has been uncomfortable and lack the freedom to utilise the properties. As a result, we have always been planning on having a permanent residence for the charity. We have looked at getting mortgages from banks. But the members decided to contribute funds and that it was best to buy a property with our own funds. The committee assigned a task to My Fessahayeto organizing another campaign in raising funds towards the acquisition of a property. All have agreed on the fund-raising task and proposed a plan of action.

## Financial report

MrsTekhle presented the financial report, she explained that the incoming fund to words the accusation of a property has been satisfactory and she mentioned a lot of work needed to be done to achieve the desired target.

The main and minor expense for the charity has always been the monthly charge we pay for the property we use for our services. 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.

Mr. Dawit has thanked the accounts team for their hard work in handling the funds and for keeping our records up to date. 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 2020

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
<b>Receipts</b>				
Voluntary receipts:				
Planned & other giving (Church Building)		14,239.04	14,239.04	16,833.07
Collection at services (offerings)	7,693.61		7,693.61	9,596.09
Membership (Standing Order)	15,542.00		15,542.00	11,895.00
Loan for acquiring a property			-	7,000.00
			-	
Activities for generating funds:			-	
Income from services	1,120.00		1,120.00	1,150.00
Income from sales	600.00		600.00	600.00
Others	-		-	105.00

Total Receipts	<b>24,955.61</b>	<b>14,239.04</b>	<b>39,194.65</b>	<b>47,179.16</b>
<b>Payments</b>			-	-
Rent Expenses	3,272.07		3,272.07	7,613.50
Others (Insurance)			-	237.11
Annual Celebration	950.00		950.00	
Charitable giving and donations	300.00		300.00	-
Loan for acquiring a property				7,000.00
Total Payments	<b>4,522.07</b>		<b>- 4,522.07</b>	<b>14,850.61</b>
Excess of receipts over payments	20,433.54	14,239.04	34,672.58	19,554.61
Cash at hand and bank 31/03/2019	110,731.96		- 110,731.96	110,731.96
Cash at hand and bank 31/03/2020	131,165.50	14,239.04	145,404.54	-

NB: All available funds can be applied for acquisition of a property

**St Korkos Church and Eritreans community**  
**Statement of Asset and liability as at 31 March 2020**

	<b>Unrestricted</b> Fund £	<b>Restricted</b> Fund	<b>Total</b> 2020	<b>Total</b> 2019
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Current Account	131,165.50	14,239.04	145,404.54	110,731.96
Cash on hand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Deposit Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	131,165.50	14,239.04	145,404.54	110,731.96
Less Others outstanding	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	131,165.50	14,239.04	145,404.54	110,732.0
<b>Other Assets</b>				
Current assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
other assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>131,165.50</b>	<b>14,239.04</b>	<b>145,404.54</b>	<b>110,731.96</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
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	131,165.50	14,239.04	145,404.54	110,731.96

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### Sunday school

The number of families that have joined the charity has slightly increased and so has the number of children attending the Sunday school. We have 30-40 children who regularly attend the Sunday school. Some of them are born in the UK and others are those who have come over from Eritrea and Ethiopia. Even though most of the children are from Eritrea, 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 lesson.

As part of getting together we have taken a group of children to Drayton Manor, Canon Hill Park and swimming, amongst many activities. Most of the children found the trips engaging, our charity is planning to do more trips to other recreation centres. We have also made efforts to communicate with other churches to share experiences.

### Some highlights

March - April 2019

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 2019

In July we celebrated our annual congregation at St. James church where about 250 people attended. 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 the Orthodox Christmas. According to our church tradition, Christmas is celebrated in early January.

February 2019

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

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