CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01-01-2025 **Period start date** **To** 31-12-2025
Period end date

Charity name: ST. GABRIEL ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHEDO CHURCH PORTSMOUTH

Charity registration number: 1190851

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The purpose of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation is, for the public benefit, to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Church's Statement of Faith. The charity fulfils this purpose through regular worship services, sacraments and pastoral support; Orthodox Christian education for children and young people; support for families and individuals; and community activities consistent with its charitable objects.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	During 2025, the charity continued to provide regular worship services and sacraments, including Sunday liturgies, baptisms, weddings and other pastoral services. Orthodox Christian teaching and hymn lessons were provided for children and young people. The church welcomed new families and individuals, including recent arrivals to the community, and provided pastoral, practical and social support where needed. The charity also organised major Orthodox Christian festival celebrations and continued its longer-term work towards securing a permanent place of worship and community facility.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising their duties and when planning and delivering the charity's activities during the year.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	The charity does not operate as a grant-making body. Funds are applied directly to the charity's own charitable activities and purposes.

Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Not applicable.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The charity relies substantially on trustees, clergy, volunteers and members of the congregation who contribute time to worship, administration, Orthodox Christian education, community support, events, fundraising and the general operation of the church. No monetary value has been placed on this volunteer contribution in the accounts.
Other		During 2025 the trustees also agreed to explore transitioning the charity from the CIO Foundation model to the CIO Association model. A dedicated CIO Structure Transition Committee was established to develop a roadmap, prepare a draft constitution based on the Charity Commission's Association CIO model, and report recommendations back to the Board before any formal regulatory steps were taken.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	During 2025, the charity continued to strengthen its role as a place of worship, Orthodox Christian learning, pastoral care and community support. Regular worship services and major religious celebrations were maintained throughout the year, providing continuity of faith and fellowship. Children and young people continued to receive Orthodox Christian teaching and hymn lessons, supporting their understanding of the Orthodox faith and their religious and cultural heritage. New families and individuals were welcomed and supported through fellowship, guidance and practical assistance where needed. Pastoral support was also provided to individuals and families experiencing difficulty, helping to reduce isolation and strengthen community relationships.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	The trustees consider that the charity made good progress against its main objectives during 2025. Regular worship, Orthodox Christian education, pastoral care and community activities continued throughout the year. The congregation remained active and the charity

		continued to develop its volunteer base and organisational capacity. During the year the trustees also reviewed the charity's governance arrangements and began work to clarify internal responsibilities and develop a structure better suited to the church's administrative and community needs. A transition committee was established to support this work and report recommendations to the Board. The trustees also continued work towards the longer-term objective of securing a permanent place of worship and community facility.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	The charity continued to raise funds through donations, contributions from members and supporters, worship-related giving and fundraising activities. Gross receipts for 2025 were £28,818.29. The receipts included Project Bethiel donations of £9,352.29. The 19 October 2026 financial report presents all 2025 receipts as unrestricted funds.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	Not applicable. The charity did not hold investments during the year.
Other		During 2025 the trustees also agreed to explore transitioning the charity from the CIO Foundation model to the CIO Association model. A dedicated CIO Structure Transition Committee was established to develop a roadmap, prepare a draft constitution based on the Charity Commission's Association CIO model, and report recommendations back to the Board before any formal regulatory steps were taken.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity remained financially stable during the year. Total receipts were £28,818.29 and total payments were £2,930.73, resulting in net receipts of £25,887.56. Cash funds increased from £27,042.00 at the start of the year to £52,929.56 at 31 December 2025. The 19 October 2026 financial report presents the full closing balance as unrestricted funds.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The trustees maintain reserves to support the charity's financial stability, meet unforeseen expenditure and normal operating commitments, and support the charity's longer-term objectives, including the aspiration to secure a permanent place of worship and community facility. The trustees review the level of reserves in light of current activities, anticipated expenditure, risks and future plans.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£52,929.56 total cash funds at 31 December 2025, reported as unrestricted funds in the 19 October 2026 financial report.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties that would cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue its activities.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The charity's income in 2025 was derived from fasting donations, Sunday small donations, membership fees, general donations, service fees, yearly feast donations, Project Bethiel donations and Gift Aid. Total receipts for the year were £28,818.29.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	The charity does not hold investments. Funds are retained in bank accounts and are applied or reserved for the charity's charitable purposes. The trustees have therefore not adopted a separate formal investment policy.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Governance transition and clarity of responsibilities - During 2025, the trustees identified significant duplication and uncertainty between the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, the former church committee and the spiritual leadership. Following consultation, the former committee was dissolved and administrative responsibility was consolidated under the Board of Trustees. However, the governance reforms remained in progress at the year end, creating transitional risks around roles,

		decision-making authority, accountability and implementation of the new structure. The trustees continued to manage this risk through consultation, documented board decisions, clarification of responsibilities and ongoing review of the governance framework. Wider church division and internal conflict - During 2025, the charity was affected by internal tensions connected to wider divisions within the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church, including disagreements about church authority, leadership and administration and concerns about state interference in the internal affairs of the wider church. This created risks of disagreement within the local congregation, strained relationships, uncertainty over spiritual or administrative authority, reputational damage and disruption to activities. The trustees sought to manage this risk by maintaining the charity's focus on its charitable objects, encouraging dialogue and consultation, and distinguishing the trustees' legal responsibilities from matters of spiritual leadership. Other principal risks included financial sustainability; access to suitable and affordable premises; reliance on trustees and volunteers; and safeguarding responsibilities relating to children and vulnerable adults.
Other		During 2025 the trustees also agreed to explore transitioning the charity from the CIO Foundation model to the CIO Association model. A dedicated CIO Structure Transition Committee was established to develop a roadmap, prepare a draft constitution based on the Charity Commission's Association CIO model, and report recommendations back to the Board before any formal regulatory steps were taken.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed in accordance with the constitution in force during the reporting period. Under the Foundation-model constitution, apart from the first trustees, Charity Trustees are appointed by resolution at a properly convened meeting of the Spiritual Leadership, with regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Trustees are expected to familiarise themselves with the charity's constitution, current policies, financial information and relevant Charity Commission guidance. The governance review identified the need to strengthen and document trustee induction and governance procedures further.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees, which holds legal responsibility for the management and administration of the CIO. During 2025, following consultation among former and current trustees, former and current committee members and the spiritual leadership, the trustees identified significant overlap between the responsibilities of the Board and the former church committee. A revised structure was agreed, the former committee was dissolved, and administrative responsibility was brought under the direct responsibility and oversight of the Board of Trustees. The spiritual leadership continued to provide guidance in matters of faith, worship and pastoral life. The charity remains independent while maintaining spiritual fellowship with the wider Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church and other Orthodox congregations.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	The charity is independent and is not controlled by, nor does it control, any other organisation. It maintains spiritual and pastoral relationships with the wider Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church and other Orthodox congregations. Some trustees and volunteers are also members of the congregation. Potential conflicts of interest are expected to be declared and managed in accordance with the charity's

		constitution and applicable Charity Commission guidance.
Other		During 2025 the trustees also agreed to explore transitioning the charity from the CIO Foundation model to the CIO Association model. A dedicated CIO Structure Transition Committee was established to develop a roadmap, prepare a draft constitution based on the Charity Commission's Association CIO model, and report recommendations back to the Board before any formal regulatory steps were taken.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	St. Gabriel Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church Portsmouth
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1190851
Charity's principal address	The Parish Church of the Ascension, Stubbington Avenue, Portsmouth, PO2 0JG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dawit Ghebreigziabher	Chair from 02-04-2025	From 09-03-2025	Spiritual Leadership under constitution
2	Kibrom Teclehaymanot	Secretary from 02-04-2025	From 09-03-2025	Spiritual Leadership under constitution
3	Freweini Solomon Sium	Trustee	From 09-03-2025	Spiritual Leadership under constitution
4	Rahwa Welday Teklit	Trustee	From 09-03-2025	Spiritual Leadership under constitution
5	Samrawit Tsegay	Trustee	From 09-03-2025	Spiritual Leadership under constitution
6	Solomun Ghebremeskel Tekle	Trustee	From 21-05-2025	Spiritual Leadership under constitution
7	Tesfamariam Goytom	Trustee	From 21-05-2025	Spiritual Leadership under constitution
8	Major Adhanom	Former trustee	01-01-2025 to 09-03-2025	Spiritual Leadership under constitution
9	Zeray Adonay	Former trustee	01-01-2025 to 09-03-2025	Spiritual Leadership under constitution
10	Teklit Brehane	Former trustee	01-01-2025 to 09-03-2025	Spiritual Leadership under constitution
11	Yergalem Bahrem	Former trustee	01-01-2025 to 09-03-2025	Spiritual Leadership under constitution
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
Not applicable		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	**Dates acted if not for whole year**	
Not applicable		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	Not applicable
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	Not applicable
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	Not applicable

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	[TO BE COMPLETED]	[TO BE COMPLETED]

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Not applicable - the charity has no chief executive or paid senior staff recorded for this report.

Other optional information

Not applicable.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Dawit Ghebreigziabher	Kibrom Teclehaymanot
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary

Date	28/10/2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity No (if any) 1190851

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2025	To	Period end date 31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Fasting donations	1,170	-	-	1,170	-
Sunday Small Donations	8,333	-	-	8,333	-
Membership fee	6,260	-	-	6,260	-
General Donations	375	-	-	375	-
Service fee	1,012	-	-	1,012	-
Yearly Feast Donations	1,732	-	-	1,732	-
Project Bethiel	9,352	-	-	9,352	-
GiftAid	584	-	-	584	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	28,818	-	-	28,818	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	28,818	-	-	28,818	-

A3 Payments

Property Rent	42	-	-	42	-
Church Materials and equipment	889	-	-	889	-
Priest and Deacon service fee	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,931	-	-	2,931	-

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Total payments	2,931	-	-	2,931	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	25,888	-	-	25,888	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	27,042	-	-	27,042	-
Cash funds this year end	52,930	-	-	52,930	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	HSBC Current Account	48,196	-	-
	HSBC Saving Account	4,734	-	-

	-	-	-
Total cash funds	**52,930**	**-**	**-**
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Dawit Ghebreigziabher	28/10/2026
	Freweini Solomon Sium	29/10/2026