Registered charity number 1208729

ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH TEESSIDE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH TEESSIDE

CHARITY INFORMATION

Registered charity	**St Mary Astereyo Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church Teesside**
Charity number	1208729
Legal form	Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in England and Wales on 19 June 2024
Principal address	St Joseph's Church Park Road South Middlesbrough TS4 2RB
Trustees	Kidane Andemariam (Chair) Hermon Tedros Mehari Kibreab Andemariam Okubaslasie Mengstab
Accountants	ATA Bookkeeping & Consulting Ltd 124 City Road London EC1V 2NX
Independent examiner	Ian Robertson T R Partners Limited
Banker	Lloyds Bank

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT: For the year ended 31 December 2025

The trustees present their annual report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Objectives and public benefit

The charity exists to advance the Christian religion in the Tees Valley for the benefit of the public through prayer meetings, lectures, public celebration of religious festivals, and the production or distribution of literature on Christianity to enlighten others about the Christian religion.

The Church provides Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo worship, religious education and pastoral support. Its activities bring members of the congregation together for prayer and fellowship, support the religious education of children and young people, and provide comfort to families during bereavement.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning and carrying out the charity's activities, in accordance with section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

Activities and achievements

The Church reported progress in the availability of local services during 2025, enabling members of the congregation to receive religious and pastoral support when needed.

Worship and sacramental ministry

Divine Liturgy and Holy Communion were celebrated during the year. Worship continued on Sundays when Divine Liturgy was not held. Fifteen children were baptised and two marriage services were conducted.

Religious festivals

The programme included the Nativity, the Baptism of the Lord, the annual Astereyo feast, Hosanna, Holy Week, the Resurrection, Pentecost, the Assumption of St Mary (Filseta), the Transfiguration and the ecclesiastical New Year.

Teaching, fellowship and pastoral care

The congregation participated in a joint Sunday School gathering in Glasgow on 13 September 2025. A parish and Sunday School election, together with Divine Liturgy, took place on 18 October 2025.

Visits, consolation and prayers were provided to bereaved families in accordance with the Church's religious traditions. Church leaders, committee members and volunteers supported the delivery of services and community activities.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT: Structure, governance and management

Governing document and management

The charity is governed by its CIO constitution. Its religious life follows the traditions of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church; the administration of the charity is subject to the constitution and applicable charity law.

The trustees collectively oversee the charity, direct its activities and are responsible for its finances and charitable assets. The trustees who served during the year are listed on page 2. Trustee appointment and retirement are governed by the constitution. Apart from the first charity trustees, trustees are appointed by resolution at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. Appointments take account of the skills, knowledge and experience required for the effective administration of the CIO. New trustees receive induction and support on their responsibilities, financial controls and public benefit.

ATA Bookkeeping & Consulting Ltd assists with the accounting records and preparation of the financial statements. Ian Robertson of T R Partners Limited has been engaged to undertake the independent examination. The trustees retain responsibility for the charity's records, decisions and reporting.

Regulatory matters

In 2024, before the CIO was registered, cash held for the congregation was seized by the authorities. The Charity Commission opened a regulatory case, conducted a compliance visit and issued an Action Plan. The funds were returned in June 2025, apart from £380 which remains due.

In December 2025, the Commission assessed the trustees as mainly compliant with the Action Plan. Following a decision review on 11 December 2025, it confirmed an Official Warning to the charity. The Commission subsequently closed its case on 3 February 2026, after the reporting year.

The trustees have adopted policies covering financial management, cash handling, risk management, serious incident reporting, safeguarding and conflicts of interest. They remain fully committed to implementing these policies, reviewing controls regularly, safeguarding charitable funds and diligently fulfilling their governance and reporting responsibilities.

Background and predecessor association

The congregation was established in 2018 as an unincorporated association. The CIO was registered on 19 June 2024 and continues the Church's charitable activities. The accounts include the assets and funds transferred from the predecessor association, as explained in note 10.

The transfer of assets to the CIO and the formal winding-up of the predecessor are separate matters. These financial statements report the resources attributable to the CIO; they do not present the predecessor association as having been dissolved merely by the registration of the CIO.

Risk management and financial oversight

The principal matters identified for attention are the completeness of financial records, the safeguarding and reconciliation of cash, compliance with donor restrictions, and maintaining sufficient unrestricted resources for continuing activities.

The trustees' priorities include documented cash counts and banking records, review of bank reconciliations and fund balances, authorisation of expenditure, and clear records of significant decisions. Safeguarding, conflicts of interest, insurance and premises arrangements also form part of the governance review.

The acquisition of permanent premises remains a longer-term objective. Any proposal will need to be considered against the charity's resources, donor restrictions, future operating costs and appropriate professional advice.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT: Financial review and future plans

Financial review

Income for the year was £27,917.85 and expenditure was £7,429.18, resulting in net income of £20,488.67. Net assets at 31 December 2025 amounted to £273,531.03.

Unrestricted funds were £33,251.70 and restricted funds were £240,279.33. Restricted funds comprise the property appeal and the historical transferred fund, as described in note 8.

Cash held by the authorities of £23,580.30 was recovered in June 2025. A further £380 remains receivable. The recoveries are not donation income. Cash at bank and in hand totalled £271,756.19, including £50 petty cash. The comparative figures have been restated as explained in note 9.

Reserves

No formally adopted reserves policy operated during 2025. Following the year-end, the trustees approved a minimum free unrestricted reserve of £12,000. This provides at least six months of essential operating expenditure at a planning allowance of up to £2,000 per month and allows for anticipated growth in activities and routine costs.

Free unrestricted reserves at 31 December 2025 were £33,251.70, exceeding the approved minimum by £21,251.70. Restricted funds are excluded. Any funds subsequently earmarked by the trustees for property remain designated unrestricted funds, not donor-restricted funds. No retrospective property designation has been made. The reserve level will be monitored and the policy reviewed as circumstances change.

Future plans and financial sustainability

The Church intends to continue worship, religious teaching and pastoral support, maintain financial controls and pursue suitable permanent premises within available resources. No purchase of a church property has been agreed since 31 December 2025. The accounts have been prepared on a going-concern basis as explained in accounting policy 1.2.

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for the governance of the charity and serve as Trustees of the charity.The trustees responsibilities include preparing the annual report and financial statements, selecting appropriate accounting policies, making reasonable and prudent judgements, maintaining adequate accounting records and safeguarding the charity's assets. They are also responsible for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities and for assessing whether the going-concern basis is appropriate.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 29th October 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Signature: 

Name: Kidane Andemariam

Chair of the Board of Trustees

ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH TEESSIDE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT:

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Mary Astereyo Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church Teesside

Registered charity number 1208729

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity, 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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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: Ian Robertson

Name: Ian Robertson

Professional body: Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

Firm: T & R Partners Limited

Address: 195-197 Wood Street
London, E17 3PA

Date: 29.10.2026

ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH TEESSIDE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES: For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 restated £
Income from donations and voluntary contributions	2	27,917.85	-	27,917.85	167,527.16
Total income		**27,917.85**	**-**	**27,917.85**	**167,527.16**
Expenditure on charitable activities	3	7,079.18	350.00	7,429.18	1,594.13
Net income / (expenditure)		**20,838.67**	**(350.00)**	**20,488.67**	**165,933.03**
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		**20,838.67**	**(350.00)**	**20,488.67**	**165,933.03**
Funds brought forward, as previously reported	9	13,568.38	240,249.33	253,817.71	86,729.33
Prior-period adjustments	9	(1,155.35)	380.00	(775.35)	380.00
Funds brought forward, as restated		**12,413.03**	**240,629.33**	**253,042.36**	**87,109.33**
Funds carried forward	**8**	**33,251.70**	**240,279.33**	**273,531.03**	**253,042.36**

The comparative figures have been restated as explained in note 9. The treatment of the predecessor balances is described in note 10.

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

ST MARY ASTEREYO ERITREAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH TEESSIDE

BALANCE SHEET: As at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 restated £
Tangible fixed assets	4	3,150.00	3,500.00
Current assets			
Debtors	5	380.00	23,960.30
Cash at bank and in hand	6	271,756.19	227,775.39
Total current assets		**272,136.19**	**251,735.69**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(1,755.16)	(2,193.33)
Net current assets		**270,381.03**	**249,542.36**
Total net assets		**273,531.03**	**253,042.36**
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds	8	33,251.70	12,413.03
Restricted funds	8	240,279.33	240,629.33
Total funds		**273,531.03**	**253,042.36**

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 29th October 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Signature: 

Name: Kidane Andemariam

Chair of the Board of Trustees

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: For the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements use the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out below. The reporting framework applied is the Charities SORP (FRS 102), second edition effective from 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable charity accounting regulations. The charity is a public benefit entity. Amounts are presented in pounds sterling to two decimal places.

1.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going-concern basis, taking account of the charity's unrestricted resources, continuing voluntary income and the ongoing delivery of its charitable activities.

The trustees' financial planning distinguishes restricted property funds from resources available for ordinary operating costs. The approved minimum free-reserves policy provides a basis for monitoring expenditure and the continuity of services.

1.3 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is entitled to it, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Donations and voluntary contributions are recognised in the relevant fund. Recovery of an asset already recognised, and transfers between cash and bank, do not give rise to additional income. Gift Aid is recognised only where entitlement and the recoverable amount can be established.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists, settlement is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Costs include irrecoverable VAT where applicable. Support and governance costs are included within expenditure on charitable activities. Accruals are made for obligations attributable to the reporting period.

1.5 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds may be used for the charity's general purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are subject to donor or appeal restrictions and include the historical transferred fund described in notes 8 and 10. Costs are charged to the fund to which they relate.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Equipment held for use is carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. The charge included for 2025 is based on straight-line depreciation at 10% of cost. The classification of the equipment and the comparative presentation are explained in notes 4 and 9.

1.7 Cash, debtors and creditors

Cash includes bank balances and cash held. Debtors are stated at amounts expected to be recovered. Creditors and accruals are recognised at the amounts expected to be paid to settle the obligation.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: For the year ended 31 December 2025

2. Donations and voluntary contributions

	2025 £	2024 restated £
Regular voluntary and membership contributions	19,322.50	4,670.00
General offerings and collections	7,369.36	9,337.16
Other unrestricted donations	1,475.99	-
Other repayments charged against donations	(250.00)	-
Restricted property appeal receipts	-	153,520.00
Total	**27,917.85**	**167,527.16**

Other unrestricted donations include £880 of general contributions.These are unrestricted gifts; the trustees' reserves policy does not alter the terms of a donor's gift.

The £1,100 repaid to Kibreab Andemariam in April 2025 was the return of a mistaken transfer received in 2024, not a refund of a building appeal donation. The original receipt is excluded from comparative donation income and the repayment settles the corresponding creditor. It is not included in 2025 income or expenditure.

3. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 restated £
Worship and annual feast	2,370.07	-	2,370.07	-
Premises hire and rent	2,576.67	-	2,576.67	533.33
Low-value supplies and repairs	25.99	-	25.99	-
Other charitable costs	200.00	-	200.00	-
Regulatory and data-protection fee	47.00	-	47.00	-
Insurance	100.80	-	100.80	100.80
Accountancy and examination	1,250.00	-	1,250.00	960.00
Ecclesiastical subscriptions and contributions	500.00	-	500.00	-
Depreciation	-	350.00	350.00	-
Bank charges	5.16	-	5.16	-
Cash difference	3.49	-	3.49	-
Total	**7,079.18**	**350.00**	**7,429.18**	**1,594.13**

Annual feast expenditure comprises £1,736.84 and £633.23. Accountancy and examination costs for 2025 comprise the year-end accrual of £1,250. The £960 paid for the 2024 accounts is recognised in the restated comparative period. Governance costs are included within charitable activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: For the year ended 31 December 2025

4. Tangible fixed assets

	2025 £	2024 restated £
Equipment cost at beginning and end of period	3,500.00	3,500.00
Accumulated depreciation brought forward	-	-
Depreciation charge for the period	350.00	-
Accumulated depreciation carried forward	350.00	-
Net book value	**3,150.00**	**3,500.00**

Equipment of £3,500 was previously presented as stock. It is held for use in the Church's activities and is presented as tangible fixed assets. This comparative presentation change does not change the carrying amount. Depreciation for 2025 is £350.

5. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 restated £
Cash recoverable from the authorities	**380.00**	**23,960.30**

Of the historical cash held by the authorities, £23,580.30 was banked as £22,150 on 11 June 2025 and £1,000 and £430.30 on 12 June 2025. An additional £380 remains recoverable from the relevant Home Office authorities and is being pursued by the treasurer. The trustees expect recovery within twelve months of the balance-sheet date. The additional balance is included in the restated historical fund and comparative debtor, not current-year donation income.

6. Cash at bank and in hand

	2025 £	2024 restated £
Lloyds Bank	271,706.19	226,820.74
Daily collections cash	-	904.65
Petty cash	50.00	50.00
Total	**271,756.19**	**227,775.39**

7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 restated £
Accountancy and examination accrual	1,250.00	960.00
Ecclesiastical subscription accrual	500.00	-
Unpaid bank charges	5.16	-
Rent accrual	-	133.33
Mistaken receipt repayable	-	1,100.00
Total	**1,755.16**	**2,193.33**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: For the year ended 31 December 2025

8. Funds Movement

Movements in 2025

	Opening £	Income £	Expenditure £	Closing £
General unrestricted funds	12,413.03	27,917.85	7,079.18	33,251.70
Restricted property appeal	153,520.00	-	-	153,520.00
Historical transferred funds	87,109.33	-	350.00	86,759.33
Total	**253,042.36**	**27,917.85**	**7,429.18**	**273,531.03**

Comparative movements in 2024, as restated

	Opening £	Income £	Expenditure £	Closing £
General unrestricted funds	-	14,007.16	1,594.13	12,413.03
Restricted property appeal	-	153,520.00	-	153,520.00
Historical transferred funds	87,109.33	-	-	87,109.33
Total	**87,109.33**	**167,527.16**	**1,594.13**	**253,042.36**

The property appeal fund is held for the acquisition of suitable permanent church premises. Historical transferred funds comprise the restricted resources brought into the CIO from the predecessor association, including equipment and cash recoverable from the authorities. Depreciation of £350 is charged against the transferred equipment within that fund. The £1,100 mistaken transfer repaid to a trustee is not a repayment from the property appeal fund.

No designated property fund or transfer between funds is included for 2025. Subsequent earmarking of genuinely unrestricted resources by the trustees creates a designation within unrestricted funds and does not impose a donor restriction.

Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
2025: tangible fixed assets	-	3,150.00	3,150.00
2025: current assets	35,006.86	237,129.33	272,136.19
2025: creditors	(1,755.16)	-	(1,755.16)
2025: total	**33,251.70**	**240,279.33**	**273,531.03**
2024 restated: tangible fixed assets	-	3,500.00	3,500.00
2024 restated: current assets	14,606.36	237,129.33	251,735.69
2024 restated: creditors	(2,193.33)	-	(2,193.33)
2024 restated: total	**12,413.03**	**240,629.33**	**253,042.36**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: For the year ended 31 December 2025

9. Comparative figures and prior-period adjustments

The comparative figures have been restated to include omitted daily collections cash and income of £904.65, a £960 accountancy fee accrual and a £1,100 creditor for money received in error rather than as a donation. The related repayment and fee payment in 2025 settle those creditors. A further £380 of historical cash recoverable from the authorities has been added to the comparative debtor and the opening historical restricted fund.

The effect on the previously reported 2024 figures is:

2024	Previously reported £	Adjustment £	Restated £
Income	167,722.51	(195.35)	167,527.16
Expenditure	634.13	960.00	1,594.13
Net income	167,088.38	(1,155.35)	165,933.03
Cash at bank and in hand	226,870.74	904.65	227,775.39
Debtors	23,580.30	380.00	23,960.30
Creditors	133.33	2,060.00	2,193.33
Opening historical restricted fund	86,729.33	380.00	87,109.33
Unrestricted closing funds	13,568.38	(1,155.35)	12,413.03
Restricted closing funds	240,249.33	380.00	240,629.33
Total closing net assets / funds	**253,817.71**	**(775.35)**	**253,042.36**

Equipment previously shown as stock is reclassified to tangible fixed assets with no change in carrying amount. The comparative fund note has been aligned to the primary statements and these adjustments. No part of the £380 historical asset correction is recognised as 2025 donation income.

10. Predecessor association and transferred balances

Assets reported as transferred from the predecessor totalled £86,729.33: bank and cash of £59,649.03, equipment of £3,500 and recoverable cash of £23,580.30. Including the additional £380 principal identified by the trustees, the restated historical fund is £87,109.33.

The transferred balances are held as restricted charitable resources, separately from general funds, and are presented within the opening historical fund in the comparative accounts. The amounts do not represent a loan due to the predecessor merely because its formal winding-up is a separate process.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: For the year ended 31 December 2025

11. Trustees and related parties

No trustee received remuneration, expense reimbursements or personal benefits from the CIO during 2025. On 10 April 2025 the charity repaid £1,100 to Kibreab Andemariam, a trustee, following a transfer made to the charity's account in error in 2024. This was the return of his own money, not remuneration, reimbursement of expenses or a refund of a building appeal donation.

The mistaken receipt is included as a creditor in the restated 2024 balance sheet and was fully settled by the repayment. No balance in respect of that receipt remained payable at 31 December 2025.

12. Events after the reporting date

No purchase of a church property has been agreed since 31 December 2025. Following the year-end the trustees approved a minimum free unrestricted reserves policy of £12,000, as described in the Trustees' Annual Report. Adoption of that policy does not create a retrospective fund designation or change the donor restrictions on existing funds.