

Shyira Trust

Constituted as an Unincorporated Association since 10th September 2006.
Registration number 1118979

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2010

Address

22 Wicks Green
Formby
Liverpool
L37 1PR

Trustees

The Trust has five trustees who serve for three years with three elected from the members and two nominated by St. Luke's church PCC. The sixth trustee is the chairman who is elected annually by the membership. The constitution allows for the trustees to co-opt up to two further trustees who can serve until the next AGM. No trustees were co-opted this past year.

The trustees are:

Chairman:	Prof Clifford Allan Hobson
PCC Nominees	Mr John McGibbon Mr Hugh Dixon
Elected	Mr Alan Powell Mrs Jacqueline Smith Mr Peter Morgan

Bankers

Barclays Bank
Lord St.
Southport

Objects and activities

The new organisational structure in Rwanda has settled down well. We did, for some time, have communication problems because Pastor Anthony was not familiar with email, and also because of phone system changes, but they have been overcome. The Bishop of the new Kivu Diocese, The Rt Rev Augustin Ahimana, has been travelling around his new diocese and we have a report from Shyira prepared by him. Since the year 2000 until the Diocese of Shyira was split into two parts in January 2009 the trustees have worked with Bishop John Rucyahana. Bishop John has now announced his retirement and the trustees would like to place on record their thanks for his friendship and admiration for his many achievements around Ruhengeri. They would also like to wish him a long and happy retirement.

The objects of the Trust are:

1. The relief of poverty and the preservation and protection of good health in Rwanda.
2. The advancement of education in Rwanda.

Poverty relief and health have again centred on support for the hospital and its staff and on helping child-headed families. With the primary school now totally refurbished, there has some concentration on support for secondary schools and a proposed Children's Centre.

Other groups continue to work alongside the Trust:

- St. Luke's church, Formby. Most of the Trust's members are members of the church, and they raise the bulk of its income. The Trust is a spin-off from the work of the church.
- Head of Midwifery Education at a university who supports safe motherhood through the Trust and who has paid for the education and training of a Midwife and continues to support the midwife. A second student midwife is currently in training.
- The Rotary Club of Formby, who have equipped the maternity hospital and have provided library books and equipment for Shyira secondary schools. They are in the process of transferring funds for the hospice. The money sent will equip the hospice.

The Trust has not had people visit Shyira in the past year, but it is hoped that someone may be able to go in January or February 2011. While no visits have taken place the trust has received two reports from Shyira; one from Bishop Augustin and one from Pastor Anthony. Anthony's report was extensive, telling in words and pictures how money sent to Shyira had been utilised.

The Range High School – Groupe Scolaire link is continuing. A school visit to Rwanda had been considered, but with the retirement of the teacher who was managing the Range end of the link has had to be postponed. The Trust received a donation of almost £600 from Range for its work in Shyira and a trustee has given a talk to assemblies of Year 7 to Year 11 students over a five day period. Rwanda now figures in the curriculum of Range High.

Work in and around Shyira is continuing. Another child-headed family has had its home rebuilt, and all 22 child headed families have received support – for example, medical insurance was one important aspect of this support and has gone to 26 children. Over the year 71 children were sponsored in high school. Sufficient land was acquired for 5,100 coffee plants to be planted. The target continues to be 50,000 plants. Training of a second person as a midwife to work in Shyira hospital continues.

The open day for the trust that was commented on as a forthcoming activity in last year's report proved very successful, with several hundred visitors. The purpose was to tell about Rwanda and its needs, as well as advertising the work of the Trust.

Two newsletters were produced over the year. One was exclusively for Trust members, and the other was for a wider readership. Several talks have been given to a variety of groups.

The trustees felt that a record of the Trust's history should be produced so that documentation is available of what has been achieved in Shyira. The record may be suitable for binding in book form. This work is under way.

Verifying expenditure.

The people in Rwanda have always been concerned that they should be seen to be accountable for the money sent. We receive regular reports from them on the use of money, often with pictures and we exchange telephone calls with some people in Shyira. We know the people in Rwanda, and over the years we have found that they do use money as intended. In Shyira the parish council oversee the work. We, in turn, pass on to members and other supporters a report in the form of a newsletter telling of what has been achieved.

One report from Shyira is perhaps worth including in full. It is from Bishop Augustin, who we knew before he became Bishop of Kivu because he had acted as guide on the first major visit of Formby people to Shyira.

Greetings from Kivu Diocese. I had a six-day pastoral visit at Shyira on October 6-11 and had a wonderful time there. Prior to my visit I had read your reports at "www.shyiratrust.org.uk" and I was able to visit the different projects supported by Shyira Trust. I would like to express my gratitude for the great work that you have achieved. I held sixteen meetings, and they included my time at both secondary schools, at the hospital, at CEFOPS, kindergarten, primary school, visiting coffee project at both locations and having a look at child headed homes, and the Transformation center (formerly called hospice). I was welcomed by the excitement of everyone, and the mention of "Friends from Formby"

was common in all visited places. I want to thank you for all you have done on behalf of Shyira community. Transformation is taking place indeed.

The projects that you have been supporting are very meaningful for the community. Children were able to access education through the sponsorship program; provision of books has equipped school library at primary and secondary level; electricity will soon be enhanced at ACEC secondary school thanks to the provision of solar power; child headed families feel comforted and loved; the maternity can now serve more women as a result of an increased capacity and improved conditions; and in the future, the coffee growing project has the potential to generate resources that will enable St. Mark's to respond to various ministry needs.

Please convey my thanks to the Formby Community.

We get occasional feedback from individuals through the regular exchanges of letters that happens between people in Rwanda and people in Formby. As an example the following was sent by a previously sponsored student:

Dear Parents, I thank you a lot for your kind support you did for me which built my present and future. I completed my high studies in 2008 in Biology-Chemistry with 95% (great distinction) marks in National examination where I was the first in my school and 34th in whole country. I am now dealing with my university studies at National University of Rwanda in Faculty of Medicine, Department of General Medicine. And this is my first year at University. I look forward hearing from you I thank you again for your sponsorship.

The evidence we have, from our own occasional visits to Shyira and from sources like those quoted above is sufficient to convince us that expenditure in Rwanda is in line with the intentions of donors.

Financial review and reserves

The Trust raises funds to support specified projects, and transfers money to support those projects three or four times a year. Money is normally sent to Rwanda as it is raised. An exception to this is when a project has not commenced in Shyira but some fund raising has been carried out – the extension to the maternity hospital is example of where this applies with the trust retaining money until it is needed in Rwanda..

Over the year a total of £21,801 has been sent to Rwanda. Details are:

Alternative Gifts	£2,153
Child headed families/Poverty relief	£4,246
Maternity Extension	£390
Solar power for ACEC school	£950
Education and schools	£8,145
Medical work through Shyira hospital	£4,139
Work of St Marks church	£1,123
Hospice	£30
CEFOPS(cards) and Mother's Union	£625
Total	£21,801

That is a slight reduction on last year's figure of £22,379.

Included in the alternative gifts is funding for safe motherhood, child headed families, a hospice and coffee growing.

The total funds now sent since St. Luke's church became involved with Shyira are £140,380. This does not include funds sent through Rotary, or the many private gifts made to individuals in Rwanda by trust members and supporters.

The fluctuating value of the pound is a particular concern to the trust. A year ago the pound purchased RWF 850. There was a gradual increase in value to RWF 950, and child sponsorship rates were calculated based on an exchange rate of RWF 925 to the pound. The rate as this report is written is back to RWF850. The fluctuation in the case of child sponsorship can be covered from tax recovery, but the amount of money going to Group Scolaire, the school where children are sponsored, is reduced.

The Trust does not maintain reserves. It does not have staff salaries to pay nor does it need to rent accommodation since trustees and supporters work from home and reserves are not needed.

Management arrangements

The trust has six trustees, as described above. Five serve for three years, after which they may be re-elected for a maximum of three terms. The chairman is a sixth trustee who is chosen by the membership each year at the AGM, and who should not exceed 75 years of age. All trustees are required to sign a declaration that there are no reasons for them to be barred from being a trustee, and in addition are required to either have or to gain CRB clearance. All have the necessary clearance.

Members pay an annual membership fee. The purpose of the fee is to cover the cost of the annual meeting and the associated documentation, and the cost of managing the Trust. This allows the Trust to send all funds raised to Rwanda, with the exception of the amounts specified in publicity as for other purposes. As an example alternative gifts include £1.00 per gift, this to cover the cost of a banana leaf card, printing and postage. It should be noted that the banana leaf card is made at CEFOPS school in Shyira, so the amount deducted to pay for the card still goes to Rwanda.

Trustees meet regularly to consider the progress of the Trust, and to review the fund raising and use of resources in Africa. It is expected that information will be received from Shyira showing how money has been used, and it is also anticipated that there will be occasional visits of trustees to Rwanda so that they may monitor progress. Trustees going to Rwanda have so far been self-funding.

Also members and supporters have made occasional visits to Shyira, always at their own expense. These visits are valuable because they allow needs to be assessed and progress monitored.

Procedures for grant making

The Trust accepts that local people are better able to prioritise their needs than the Trust is. The Trust therefore sends money to Rwanda for use against specific projects, but allows the detail of the way money is used to be determined locally. There is an exception to this when money has been allocated for a specific purpose as with alternative gifts. We occasionally get individual requests for support. In all such cases we refer the enquirer to the Shyira Parish Council as the people who set local priorities

As the people of Shyira and district see their priorities and needs changing the Trust seeks to accommodate them. This has resulted in the proposed children's centre becoming our highest priority project, and the maternity extension the second highest.

This approach has always worked in the past. It depends on trust between us and the people in Shyira and the intention of their Bishop to be accountable for all transferred funds. Also through our visits we are able to see how money has been used as described earlier.

On occasions the Trust is able to help members or other people transfer money for specific purposes. A recent example of this is a recent transfer of funds from someone wanting to support the work of Shyira hospital

Public interest.

The trustees believe that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit. There are several pointers to this aspect of the Trust's work:

- The Trust's support for Range High School and its curriculum through the presentation of a series of talks to five different year groups. The school now includes Rwanda as a major topic in its geography curriculum.
- The Trust works with partners – St. Luke's church, University Staff and the Rotary Club of Formby.
- Some members of the trust have developed friendships with people in Rwanda, exchanging letters, telephone calls and small gifts.
- Talks have been given to various groups by invitation. These include Probus, Rotary, Mother's Union and Women's Institute.
- The Trust is given quite a lot of publicity in the local press and some in the national press.

The future.

The Trust, with partners in Rwanda has identified seven areas of activity for development in Shyira. They are:

1. The church. The pastor is a leader in the community providing spiritual support and helping with plans to alleviate poverty.
2. The construction of a new children's centre. This will be for a Sunday School and will provide accommodation for after-school activities throughout the week, and for adult literacy classes.
3. The hospital, including safe motherhood, completing the training of a second midwife and the addition of a second floor extension to the maternity unit. Since the new maternity unit was opened in 2004 the number of women using it has doubled and it is now too small.
4. Child headed families, to ensure that they have weatherproof housing. So far 11 out of 22 homes have been rebuilt or repaired.
5. Support for the schools, including child sponsorship and further building refurbishment.
6. Help in establishing a coffee growing project.
7. A hospice and counselling centre, also referred to as a restoration centre, to be called "Living Hope Ministry".

In Summary

There is a strong bond of friendship between the people of Shyira and Trust supporters. Proposals exist for future developments of the work in Rwanda, based on children, medical care and poverty relief. Funding levels over the past year have held almost even, in spite of the recession that has hit many trust members.

Any visits to Rwanda, by trustees or supporters, over the coming year will be used to verify the continued effectiveness of the Trust's support.