

Shyira Trust

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

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2011

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 were:

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 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. This past year there has some concentration on support for secondary schools and a proposed Children's Centre, and the Trust has acted as a facilitator for others seeking to work with people in Shyira.

Other groups the Trust has worked with include:

- 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 are now nearing the completion of their third project in Shyira. They have transferred funds for the equipping of the hospice, although there have been some delays in sending the money through the Rotary system.
- Global Community Links, an organisation managed by British Council on behalf of UKaid and the Department for International Development, DfID.
- Range High School
- Formby High School
- St. Luke's Primary School
- Southport College.

The Trust was asked by the head of Range High School if one of their students may join the group when the trust next organised a visit to Shyira. It would need to be around half term so that the selected student did not miss too much schooling. The request was agreed, but the Trust suggested that the available money be divided between two students able to support each-other. The school agreed to this proposal, and the trust was involved in selecting two sixth form students to join a group going in February 2011.

The selection process started with talks to students about the work of the Trust, and about visiting Rwanda. As a result 24 students expressed an interest in going to Rwanda. The students were then asked to write an application to visit Rwanda, with guidelines given by the school. Two trustees and two staff then selected two students from the applications, with the students identity removed from the application. Finally the parents of the selected students were invited to school for a meeting with the two trustees who would lead the group and with school staff. The two Range students would help further develop the Range-Groupe Scolaire link.

Formby High School has a choir, Mundo Afrika that performs African music. The choir was invited to perform a fund raising concert for the Trust, and this they did. The school's headmaster was in the audience and he invited a trustee into the school to explore further interaction between the school and Trust. Talks about Rwanda were given in the school, and the school then asked if a staff member could join the group going to Rwanda. The purpose would be to create a link between Formby High and ACEC-Bihembe, a secondary school in Shyira suggested by the Trust. The deputy head of Formby High joined the group going to Shyira.

In the past the Trust helped in an exchange of letters between St. Luke's primary school and Shyira primary school. This hadn't any lasting affect because of language and age differences in children in the two schools, so the headmistress of St. Luke's school asked if a teacher from the school could join the visit to Shyira. The hope was that a start could be made on formalising the link between primary schools.

A member of St. Luke's church, who was also a student at Southport College, asked permission to have time away from college to join the group going to Rwanda. It was suggested and agreed that he use the visit to undertake his placement from college at a school in Shyira. The trust was able to arrange for the placement to take place at ACEC, and to consist of teaching in sport.

The group that went in February was 14 strong. In addition to two trustees who led the group and organised activities in Rwanda, there was people from St. Luke's church, three schools and a college as described above, and two ladies from Great Baddow, Essex, who had been sending equipment to Shyira hospital.

An application was submitted to Global Community Links for funding to bring people from Shyira to the UK. There were two parts to the application:

1. To bring four people to Formby when the group of fourteen, described above, returned at the end of February. The four people would be two staff and two students from Groupe Scolaire and would spend most of their time while in the UK in Range High School. They were expected to tell why the millennium development goals, and particularly goal 1 on alleviating poverty, are important to them.
2. To bring three people to Formby at the end of April. Again the visitors would be telling about why the millennium development goals are important to them, this time at two events:
 - a. A Trust open day to be held on May Bank Holiday Monday, 2nd May, in St. Luke's meeting room.
 - b. The International Day of the Midwife seminar to be held at Edge Hill University on 5th May.

Applications had to be for an amount between £7,000 and £11,000. The purpose of the application was to carry out items 1 and 2b as described above, but the project cost did not reach the minimum requirement of £7,000, so an additional item was added. Our first application was rejected because the added item, meeting over dinner with people having an important role in the community, was not liked. A second application, total value £7,433.50 was submitted, with item 2a as described above, and approved.

Unfortunately the two months delay caused by the rejection of the first application had serious consequences because the timing of the various parts of the project was defined by other activities. There was some overspend in buying tickets because of the need to obtain visas, and the High Commissions in Kigali, and especially Nairobi who issue visas, seemed to introduce delays, delays beyond the quality of service they advertise.

Visas for the first group were obtained, but only on the morning of their expected departure from Kigali. The group visited Formby and had a very busy time. They were in Range High School for much of their visit, and a formal partnership agreement was signed. They also spent time in Formby High School, Southport College and St. Luke's Primary School. They attended services and events at St. Luke's Church, and took part in a Child Sponsorship Evening for the trust – one of the visitors was a sponsored child.

A report on the second group will appear in the next annual report.

Work in and around Shyira is continuing. All 22 child headed families have received support – for example, beds, mosquito nets and tools have been provided. Over the year 65 children were sponsored in high school. Training of a second person as a midwife to work in Shyira hospital continues, and support is continuing for the midwife who has completed her training. Funding sufficient to construct foundations and walls for a Children's centre was provided.

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

The record of the Trust's history is partially written. It is intended to show what has been achieved in Shyira, and to act as a guide for people thinking of getting involved in development work. The record may be suitable for binding in book form.

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 or Skype 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.

With two visits to Shyira this year it has been possible for trustees and trust members to monitor work and progress in Shyira. Over the past ten years the community has been transformed. It is no longer the depressed place with no one smiling that it once was, but a community at ease with itself even though the poverty continues to be extreme. This is not entirely down to the Trust. In fact much of the credit must go to the King family who have dedicated ten years of their lives to Shyira and its people, working to restore medical services to the community. Also the successive pastors of Shyira have helped to restore the people and have organised them into self-supporting organisations.

The role of the Trust in all this has been to provide maternity services, restore the dignity of child headed families by providing new homes and facilities, restore schools, support children in school, support coffee growing, and much more.

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 an example of where this applies with the trust retaining money until it is needed in Rwanda.

Usually almost all money raised by the Trust is sent to Rwanda, but this year has been an exception. The reason for this is the funding from Global Community Links which is for money to be spent mostly in the UK.

Over the year a total of £17,985 has been sent to Rwanda. Details are:

	Sent	Awaiting transfer
Support for ministry in Shyira	£675	£700
Passports	£330	
CEFOPS	£170	
Children's centre	£6,160	£2,710
Groupe Scholaire and Sonrise	£5,880	£7,800
Sale of Banana Leaf Cards	£200	£380
Emmanuel – Sonrise School fees	£350	£70
Alternative Gifts	£950	£1,400
Child Headed Families	£360	£1200
Children's work	£25	
Maternity Services	£2,400	£70
For Louise	£355	
Coffee project	£130	
Projects		£300
Living Hope		£140
	£17,985	£14,770.00

That is a reduction on last year's figure of £21,801. However, at the end of the financial year there was a total of £14,770 awaiting transfer, with further money held back on a temporary basis because the charity must be prepared to cover the 30% cost of the Global Community Links project until it is paid on completion of the project.

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 in 2000 are £158,365, soon to rise to £173,135. 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 continues to be a concern to the trust. A year ago the pound purchased RWF 850. There has been a gradual increase in value to almost RWF 970, with child sponsorship rates calculated at an exchange rate of RWF 950 to the pound. The changes this year have been beneficial to the Trust and its membership. For example, they have enabled the cost of sponsoring a child to remain unchanged although there has been an increase in the fees in Rwanda.

The Trust does not normally 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 Child Sponsorship fees include £1.00 to cover printing and postage costs associated with managing the scheme.

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.

Also members and supporters have made occasional visits to Shyira, always at their own expense, or through money raised from other sources – the two school students, for example, fund raised in school to support their visit. Visits are valuable because they allow needs to be assessed and progress monitored and also because they can enable the Trust to introduce others to its work.

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 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, usually smallish amounts, for specific purposes. We have had several instances of this recently.

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 work with schools and colleges, and in particular the help given to range High and Groupe Scolaire in the formation of an inter-school link.
- 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.
- 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 completion of the construction of a new children's centre. The building is half complete and will be used 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. Continued help in establishing a coffee growing project.
7. A hospice and counselling centre, also referred to as a restoration or social 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 constant, in spite of the recession that has hit many trust members. A grant from Global Community Links has been used to further develop the friendship between the two communities.

Visits to Shyira have taken place and have involved a range of people, particularly from schools, and the year has seen a widening of the interests of people involved with Shyira. The visits have been useful in the monitoring of progress.