

# Shyira Trust

Constituted as an Unincorporated Association since 10<sup>th</sup> September 2006.  
Registration number 1118979

## Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2012

### Address

38 Wicks Lane  
Formby  
Liverpool  
L37 1PX

### Trustees

The Trust has five trustees who serve for three years with three elected from its membership 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 Jane Morgan 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 young people. This past year there has been some concentration on support for the completion of a Children's Centre, on homes for child-headed families and on the development of a coffee growing project. Also the Trust has acted as a facilitator for others seeking to work with people in Shyira. There have also been visits of people who live in Shyira to Formby, and of three Formby people to Shyira

Other groups the Trust has worked with include:

- St. Luke's church, Formby. Many of the Trust's supporters are members of the church, and they raise the bulk of its income. The Trust is a spin-off from work started by the church.
- A University Head of Midwifery Education who supports safe motherhood through the Trust and who has raised money to pay for the education and training of two midwives and who

continues to support them. The second of those midwives completed his sponsored education this financial year and now works in Shyira hospital with the midwife who had completed her training some time ago.

- The Rotary Club of Formby, who completed their third project in Shyira. Through their work the hospice has now received quite a large amount of equipment and furniture.
- 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

At the start of the year the Trust was part way through a Global Community Links project aimed at increasing people's knowledge of the developing world and especially of the Millennium Development Goals. Four people, two staff and two students from Rwanda, had spent two weeks in Formby attending Range High School and making visits to other schools and organisations. A memorandum of understanding had been signed between the two schools and the joint work continues.

The second part of the Global Community Links project involved a further three people from Shyira coming to Formby. They were to come for two events:

1. A Trust open day to be held on May Bank Holiday Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011, in St. Luke's church meeting room.
2. The International Day of the Midwife event to be held at Edge Hill University on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

The three people who were to come should have been a community nurse and midwife, and the bishop of Kivu diocese who had overall responsibility for the hospital. For the International Day of the Midwife event the most important member of the group was the midwife, who had been trained with funding from the Trust. Unfortunately her visa application was rejected. The reasons for the refusal of the visa were clearly contrived and contained errors, if not lies. For example, we knew that evidence of income had been submitted with the application but it was said that it wasn't. When our MP made representations to the Border Agency for us it was acknowledged that some documents had not been considered and the midwife was asked to take her passport back to the Kigali High Commission so that a visa could be issued. The High Commission then mislaid her passport!

Eventually the visa was issued, and the midwife was able to come to the UK, but not for the originally planned event. We submitted a detailed complaint to the Border Agency listing a whole catalogue of problems—delays in returning passports, failure to meet the promises they make on response times, not responding to emails when they publish the address, giving visa applicants phone numbers that turn out to be a fax machine and more. The reply effectively informed us that the Border Agency make, enforce and police the rules, and failed to address the issues we raised.

Our application for a visa for the midwife was ultimately successful only because we had help from our MP. Part of our reason for lodging a complaint with the Border Agency was to draw their attention to shortcomings as we perceived them in order to try and improve the overall functioning of their "service" for other people. We failed to influence this arrogant organisation, except that they removed promises of response time from their website.

The project was modified with the approval of British Council who administered Global Community Links. The midwife would come later than originally planned and would reinforce the work done at Edge Hill University by the other two visitors.

The main events went well. The open day had a lot of visitors who were able to meet with our Rwandan guests and the presentation at the International Day of the Midwife illustrated the difference that proper training can make in the developing world. For example, since a midwife completed her training and started work in Shyira the death rates of both babies and mothers have been drastically reduced.

At the conclusion of the project a report was produced, and included survey information particularly from Range High School. The report was accepted and the balance of the grant money was paid to the Trust.

Work in and around Shyira is continuing. The children's centre is nearing completion, and is already providing a sheltered meeting place for young people. Work on the coffee project has continued and in a forthcoming visit to Shyira it is expected that detailed statistics will be collected. Support for child headed families continues, and a further two houses have been rebuilt. Training of a second person as a midwife to work in Shyira hospital was completed, and support has been given to both midwives.

Two newsletters were produced over the year. One, a review of the Trust's work in 2011, was exclusively for Trust members, and the other was for a wider readership. Talks have been given to a variety of groups, with a Rwandan visitor present on one occasion.

The record of the Trust's history is partially written but with so many other things to do progress has been slow this past year. It is intended that the history will show what has been achieved in Shyira, and act as a guide for people thinking of getting involved in development work. The record may be suitable for binding in book form or for publication as an e-book.

### **Verifying expenditure.**

The people in Rwanda, and especially the bishop of Kivu diocese, 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 what has been achieved. We also make periodic visits to check on progress. Quite often these visits combine with taking other people to give them an experience of Rwanda.

### **Visits**

This year there have been two visits of Trust supporters to Rwanda. The first was April-May 2011 when two people went and did some teaching in various schools, not all in Shyira, and toured the country. The second was at the start of 2012 when a retired teacher visited Shyira and spent two months teaching English to both staff and students in the schools of Shyira. That was because the official teaching language recently changed from French to English and many staff are uncertain of their abilities in English. The second visit resulted in useful feedback on projects.

### **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 £35,360 has been sent to Rwanda. Details are:

	Sent
Support for ministry in Shyira	£2,450
Mothers Union	£50
Nursery in Ruhengeri	£55
Children's centre	£4,190
Groupe Scholaire and ACEC	£12,820
Sale of Banana Leaf Cards	£1,660
Fees, Training and education	£450
Alternative Gifts	£3,475
Child Headed Families	£2,035
Children's work	£200
Maternity Services	£2,020
For Louise	£1,680
Coffee project	£3,515
Projects	£620
Living Hope	£140
	£35,360

That is almost twice last year's figure of £17,985 because we had money waiting to go at the end of the previous financial year and a large transfer took place in April 2011.

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 £193,725. This does not include funds sent through Rotary, or the many private gifts made to individuals in Rwanda by the Trust's members and supporters.

The Trust does not normally maintain reserves since it does not have staff salaries to pay nor does it need to rent accommodation since trustees work from home.

### **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, except when publicity specifies that some money will be used for other purposes. As an example Child Sponsorship fees include £1.00 to cover printing and postage costs associated with managing the scheme, and this is made clear on publicity leaflets.

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. 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 who are 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 this year elevated coffee growing to 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 in this report.

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 benefit.**

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 has worked 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 work of the Trust in taking visiting groups to Rwanda

### **The future.**

Developments in Shyira mean that in some ways the Trust will need to modify its future plans. Two trustees are to go to Shyira between 17 May and 1 June, to discuss the developments and to report back to the Trust's AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> June on how we should adapt. Specific issues are:

1. The hospital has a new director and management committee and we need to understand their priorities and plans for development, especially related to maternity services. This applies particularly because we have been told that there is now quite a large turn-over of staff.
2. The government are introducing free secondary education across all state schools in Rwanda, and this means that we shall not need to sponsor children in state schools. We must determine if there are other needs.
3. Management of the hospice/social centre is to change in May.

These and other matters will be reported on in the Trust's 2012-13 annual report.

Previously the Trust, with partners in Rwanda had identified six areas of activity for development in Shyira. They will possibly be updated at the AGM, but are:

1. St. Mark's church. The pastor is a leader in the community providing spiritual support and helping with plans to alleviate poverty.
2. The hospital, including safe motherhood, support for two midwives whose training was paid for by the Trust and possibly 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.
3. Child headed families, to ensure that they have weatherproof housing. So far 14 out of 22 homes have been rebuilt or repaired.
4. Support for the schools, including further building refurbishment and possibly some form of sponsorship.
5. Continued help in establishing a coffee growing project.
6. 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. These bonds have been strengthened over the past year thanks to the financial support received through Global Community Links and the visits of Shyira people to Formby.

Proposals exist for future developments of the work in Rwanda, based on children, medical care and poverty relief, but are subject to some revision due to changes taking place in Shyira. Funding levels over the past year have held almost constant, in spite of the recession that has hit many Trust members.

Visits to Shyira have taken place and have been useful in the monitoring of progress.