

Shyira Trust

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

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014

Address

1 Wicks Green Close
Formby
Liverpool
L37 1PL

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 MBE
PCC Nominees	Mrs Jane Allwright (Until 19 March 2014) Mr Hugh Dixon
Elected	Mr Alan Powell Mrs Jane Morgan MBE Mr Colin Cooke

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 centred on support for the hospital and its staff and on young people. This past year there has been some concentration on support resulting in the completion of a Children's Centre and the construction of two more homes for child-headed families. Help has been given to the maternity hospital and to safe motherhood work, and planning for the extended maternity hospital has continued. The coffee project has been adversely affected by roadwork resulting from the storm damage that occurred in May 2012. There have been two visits of trustees to Shyira, with a total of four going and planning is underway for a possible further visit over the coming months.

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 a significant proportion 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 one of them. The support takes the form of financial contributions to give a total salary that is competitive with salaries paid in a hospital at Butaro, provided by and still supported by the Clinton Foundation.
- St. Thomas' church Lydiate who are actively supporting the safe motherhood work, and the provision of a maternity extension.
- Kirkby Christian fellowship who have been fundraising for the maternity extension.
- Range High School in Formby.
- Mothers Union, St Oswald's Church, Netherton, who knit blankets and cardigans for the maternity hospital and large knitted blankets for the widows in the Mothers Union, St Mark's Church, Shyira.

Following the 1994 genocide and the conflict that continued for a further 5 years in the North-West of Rwanda, it was necessary to fill many professional appointments with people who had inadequate experience and qualifications. That was because a large number of professional people had been murdered in the conflict. As time passed people were trained to take up professional appointments – the Trust helped in this by providing funding for the training of teachers and midwives. In the past year we have seen the country benefiting from this training and recognise that in some ways our future work will be influenced. Some examples follow:

- Different grades of nursing and midwifery staff have been employed. A1 is the highest grade but there are also grade A2 staff. The government have provided funding for all A2 staff *who qualified in Rwanda* to attend a three year course in university to gain A1 status. They may become either nurses or midwives. Shyira has gained two midwives, with another in training, by this process. All new nursing and midwifery appointments to hospitals must now be at grade A1. A2 staff can still be appointed to health centres.
- People from overseas going to work for a short time in a Rwandan hospital must be registered with their own professional regulatory body in their own country and have their qualifications and experience scrutinised and approved by the Rwandan Ministry of Health.
- Accommodation standards in hospitals have been redefined. Shyira maternity was originally designed for 24 women, but under the new standards is only large enough for 12. As a result the Trust must consider the extension and upgrading to present standards of maternity facilities.
- In the past all secondary education in Rwanda was boarding. Recently there has been a move to make some schools into day schools, perhaps with a few special case students who board. The day school system is not popular with students because it reduced their options for evening study, and so puts them at a disadvantage in national exams leading to university entrance. Groupe Scolaire de Shyira is one such school, and they would like to take more boarders but have been refused permission until the quality of their student accommodation is improved. This has implications for our student sponsorship programme.

Work in and around Shyira is continuing. Trustees and others who visited Shyira in February 2014 were able to join the celebrations as the new children's centre provided by the Trust was formally opened. The centre now provides sheltered accommodation for an average of 300 children weekly, and after school clubs through the week. It is also intended to provide daytime accommodation for literacy classes for parents. The centre has three rooms, a storeroom and an office and cost about £20,000.

Support continues to be provided for child headed families, and two new homes have been completed in the past year. One of the new homes is in a neighbouring parish, and this represents a growing trend for the trust to extend its area of work to help surrounding areas up to the standard of Shyira. Child sponsorship for Groupe Scolaire students continues to be popular among Trust members and others.

The two trustees who visited in May 2012 saw the devastating effects that exceptional rain can have over a quite wide region. Those same trustees were again in Shyira in February 2014 and were pleased to see that in many ways the country was recovering. However, there is one important exception. About 7,500 coffee plants have been planted on a hillside a short distance from Shyira. Those plants are an important part of the Shyira coffee growing project but there has been extensive damage resulting from road repairs after the storms. The road that runs across the top of the coffee fields had been partly washed away and was in need of repair. Unfortunately the repairs involved widening into the hillside that extended up from the road with the rock and debris tipped down the hillside below the road – the coffee fields. While the government will provide new coffee plants it is doubtful if they can be grown midst all the rocks and even if they can it will be two or three years before they get back to producing beans. The people caring for the coffee plants are demoralised.

In cooperation with St. Luke's church the Trust has been working to support ministry in Butaka, a community to the north-west of Gisenyi and close to the DRC border. The need is twofold – to support the lay person acting as minister and to provide support for the building of a church centre that will be a focus for the impoverished people living in the area.

A meeting about the maternity hospital was held in Gisenyi on 18th February. Present were the Bishop of Kivu who has overall responsibility for the hospital, the hospital director, head of midwifery, the architect of Kivu diocese and three trustees. The hospital has different categories of women with the requirement to keep separate those who had normal births, caesarean section births, stillbirths and women with gynaecological problems. There are also many women who arrive up to a week before their due date because of problems getting to the hospital. All must be accommodated. It was agreed that the head of midwifery will document the challenges facing the hospital and will use that work to look at accommodation requirements. He will then work with an architect to produce detailed plans that can be implemented in phases. There will be discussion and cooperation with a UK architect.

Two newsletters were produced over the year. The first, dated November 2013, was an update for members of the Trust on the work in Rwanda. The second was an update in February 2014 that reported to members and supporters. Talks have been given to several community groups and to students of Range High School. One of the Range High talks was on Global Citizenship and was part of an inspiring day in the school. A second talk at the Global Citizenship event was given by a former Range High student who, as a sixth former, had been to Rwanda with the Trust.

The record of the Trust's history is partially written but with so many other things to do progress has again 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, and contributions from Rwanda have been arranged.

Verifying expenditure.

The people in Rwanda, and especially the bishop of Kivu diocese, continue to be concerned that they should be seen to be accountable for the money sent. We receive regular reports from them on the use of money, with pictures when possible, 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 priest with the parish council oversees 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. There were two such visits this year, as described in the next section.

Visits

There have been two visits to Rwanda arranged through the Trust in the past year. The first visit was in August 2013, was led by one trustee and included five other people. Five members of the group taught and worked in the maternity hospital, and the sixth member went to assess projects and the progress on them. The second visit took place in February 2014. It had been arranged to span the Formby half term school holidays because initially it was thought that some students from one of the schools may join the visit. Seven people were in the group, five from Formby, one from York and one from London. This was essentially a visit to review projects and to meet friends in and around Shyira.

The second visit benefited from daily updates of the Trusts facebook page. People back in the UK, and elsewhere were kept informed about what was happening throughout the visit.

Awards.

In the past year one trustee, Jane Morgan, has been awarded an MBE For services to Midwifery in the UK and to Maternity Service Provision in Shyira, Rwanda. Jane is the second trustee to be recognised for the work done in Rwanda with the award of an MBE.

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 and safe motherhood programmes are examples of where this applies with the Trust retaining money until it is needed in Rwanda.

The Trust tries to minimise its expenditure in the UK. It expects to meet its running costs from membership fees so that it does not need to retain any money from donations and maximises the amount sent to Rwanda.

Some travel this year has been funded through sponsorship and that shows on the accounts as expenditure in the UK.

Over the year a total of £33,334 has been sent to Rwanda. Details are in the following table:

	Sent
Support for ministry in Shyira	£1,775
Support for ministry in Butaka	£2,925
Pastor Emmanuel	£110
Nurse Emmanuel	£500
Children's centre	£5160
Groupe Scholaire	£10,214
Gervais, Study Fees	£525
Sale of Banana Leaf Cards	£395
Fees, Training and education	£2040
Alternative Gifts	£2,665
Child Headed Families	£758
Bright Sabune	£100
MU	£50
Safe Motherhood	£2,560
Louise	£546
Projects	£3,011
	£33,334

The corresponding figure in the previous two years was £35,360 and £30,240 so it can be seen that the level of support for the Trust is holding up well.

Included in the alternative gifts is funding for safe motherhood, child headed families including a house, Shyira hospital and coffee growing.

The funds sent since St. Luke's church became involved with Shyira in 2000 now total £257,299. This does not include the £56,000 (approximate figure) sent through Rotary, or the many private gifts made to individuals in Rwanda by the Trust's members and supporters.

The cost of the Trust's operations are paid for in three ways:

1. From membership fees – these cover the cost of items like the Trust's website and bank charges for money transfers to Rwanda.
2. By a transparent charge on some items like alternative gifts where postage, printing and packaging must be paid for, but this is made clear to the donor in advance.
3. Travel to Rwanda is paid by the person going. In some instances it has been possible for people to be sponsored and this appears on accounts as an expense.

The Trust does not normally maintain reserves since it does not have staff salaries to pay nor does it 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. No trustee should 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 safeguarding clearance. All have the necessary clearance.

Some problems are being created by the three term limit on trustee service and the upper age limit that is thought to be ageist. The problems come down to a large turnover of trustees and the generally recognised problems associated with getting people to volunteer. An EGM has been arranged to consider these issues.

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 other 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 that have been agreed with the people in Shyira, 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 from people in Shyira for support. In all such cases we refer the enquirer to the Shyira Parish Priest/Council because they 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 extensive discussions about the need for a maternity hospital extension and the design of the building.

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 trustee visits the trust is able to see that money has been used as agreed.

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 and other Churches and University Staff.
- 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 regional radio.
- The work of the Trust in taking visiting groups to Rwanda.

The future.

The maternity hospital with two midwives provided by the trust has been very successful. There has been a huge reduction in maternal and infant mortality and morbidity and it is now important that the benefits gained are not lost as planning for an extension of maternity services continues. In February 2014 the hospital had a temporary medical director who was very competent at managing medical services in the hospital. However, a permanent director who can take ownership of the proposals is probably necessary before the work can progress to permanent planning.

One new area of support (item 7 below) has been identified this year, and we plan to continue with existing projects as items 1-6 below.

1. The children's centre is complete. We await a substantial tax refund from money donated to the centre and, as is our practice, will send the money for use of the children's centre. It can be used to purchase materials and equipment
2. Child sponsorship must continue. Education is the best way of getting people clear of poverty although the Rwandan government is now struggling to pay university fees.
3. The coffee growing project is now suspended until the damage done by the road rebuilding can be assessed and the value of continuing determined.
4. Support for ministry in Shyira and Butaka will continue.
5. Child-headed families are perhaps among the neediest people in the community. However, many who were children when the Trust started to support child headed families are now young adults and it has become necessary to ask that an age limit be applied when dealing with child-headed families.
6. The Trust's most important future work in Shyira must be the development of maternity services and safe motherhood. Firm proposals from Shyira are awaited on what is required, and members will be informed as details become available. It is thought that the cost will exceed £120,000
7. Support widows in the Mothers Union, St Marks Church, Shyira.

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, but are subject to constant revision due to developments taking place in Shyira. Funding levels over the past year have held up well, in spite of the recession that has hit many Trust members.

Two visits to Shyira have taken place and were useful in the monitoring of progress. Further visits will take place over the next 18 months.