

Shyira Trust

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

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2015

Address

1 Wicks Green Close
Formby
Liverpool
L37 1PL

Trustees

The Trust has six trustees who serve for three years with four elected from its membership and two nominated by St. Luke's church PCC. At the Trust's AGM a chairman, secretary and treasurer are selected from the trustees and should serve until the next AGM. 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:

PCC Nominees	Mr Kenneth Hugh Dixon Mr Philip Lowe	Treasurer
Elected	Mr Colin Cooke Prof Clifford Allan Hobson MBE Rev Jane Morgan MBE Mr Alan Powell	Chairman Secretary

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; staff, patients and families, and on young people, but with some support for widows. The children who were members of child-headed families are now young adults and support for them has been switched to providing a vocational course so that people deprived of schooling may be trained for employment in the community. Help has again 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 suspended for the time being so that people in Shyira can assess its future, if any, following devastating storm damage. No visits to Rwanda on behalf of the Trust have taken place. It has always been Trust policy

that it does not pay for travel except for Rwandans visiting the UK, so people need a reason to go there, and this past year has seen no reasons for travel.

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 midwife 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 baby cardigans for the maternity hospital and large knitted blankets for the widows in the Mothers Union at St Mark's Church, Shyira.

Last year we reported that the number of well qualified staff in Shyira hospital had increased considerably as a result of a staff retraining programme in which nurses and midwives with a lower A2 qualification have been able to study a three year university course to gain an A1 qualification. While this is not directly involving the Trust it has been a disappointment to us to learn that the Government no longer feels able to pay all the qualified staff in the hospital so that some have had to leave.

The Trust has been working for the people of Shyira since 2006, and before that St. Luke's church had been providing support for five years. That is a total of 14 years of supporting the restoration of the people and community of Shyira following the devastation of genocide. Shyira is now a changed place, although poverty still prevails. With one exception we can now see the restoration of the infrastructure complete and so the nature of our involvement should change, and possibly be reduced in the foreseeable future.

Continuing work is:

- Support for children in school. Many of the children in Groupe Scolaire de Shyira are now day pupils and they may only be in the school for three rather than six years, but the poverty in the community still means that many families can't send their children to school, even with the reduced fees. Since education is possibly the best way of reducing poverty in the long term, our sponsorship programme continues.
- When we started work in Shyira there were twenty one child headed families in the community. With the increased stability of the country, and an African culture based around extended families we have not been aware of any new child headed families for some years. Therefore, we expect support for these families to come to an end when the previously mentioned training programme is completed. We do recognise that for the full benefit of the

vocational course to be realised, some small start-up funding for tools and equipment may be necessary.

- One exceptionally deprived group is widows. They generally work together providing mutual support to the benefit of all. A small amount of money has been provided to help increase their living standards, and that support will continue.
- The children's centre has been completed, and in the past year we provided money, largely coming from gift aid refunds, for equipment. We do not envisage any significant expenditure but expect to monitor its use so that we can report back in future about the benefits it is providing to the community.
- We hope that St. Luke's church will continue to provide support for Ministry in Shyira through the church link. The trust has also supported this work and we see no reason to discontinue it. The benefits are very significant in allowing the pastor to work with his impoverished people rather than having to worry about his family's welfare.
- Support for safe motherhood has continued, with a donation to the Shyira Maternity Hospital to enable it to update some facilities and equipment

A major part of our work in Shyira over the coming months could be the replacement/extension of the maternity building. The present maternity building cost £26,000 and was provided by members of St. Luke's church. It was opened in 2004. In those early years after the genocide it was seen as a replacement for an earlier derelict building and it has served the community well, especially after the Trust funded the training of two midwives. Many lives of both mothers and babies have been saved, and all 15 health centres covered by the hospital have also benefited.

The maternity hospital has become popular, and with improving standards set by government, is now overcrowded and inadequate. It must be either extended or replaced. The present building is close to the operating theatres and the hospital director would like to use it as a surgical ward – the present surgical ward is not good. A new maternity building is therefore preferred.

We have had a provisional plan showing a new maternity building, but it needs developing. We have made it clear to the hospital director and bishop that we are not able to proceed until we see plans and have a firm cost estimate. However, we believe that the cost will be at least £400,000 and it will be necessary for us to determine if we are able to support the development.

In cooperation with St. Luke's church the Trust has continued 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 funds for the building of a church centre that will be a focus for the impoverished people living in the area. Trustees have agreed that we should include support for Butaka, an exceptionally deprived community, in our activities. At present this will probably consist of support for the lay minister, Moses, and help in constructing the church/community centre. Members may like to contrast our wealth with Moses' poverty – his monthly pay is about £6.50. Recently we sent money to Butaka, £800 from St. Luke's for the building project and £110 from Trust members to help Moses and his family. We would like all members to see the response we had:

It is good to hear from you. We are so happy, I, my family and the congregation. We hope that this money will help us continue God's Ministry here in Butaka. We are going to use the Church's money to continue the Church Building(buying a part of bricks) and money sent for my personal use will help our family to solve problems related to our everyday needs(children's education, health, renting house for my family etc.).

We will let you know every step about the church progress.

Please, don't miss to thank all people who contributed. May God bless them all.

Two newsletters were produced over the year. The first, dated July 2014, was a general description of the work of the Trust in Rwanda. The second was a review of the achievements of the Trust since it was first formed. Talks have been given to several community groups, a keynote lecture has been presented at a conference and, in conjunction with St. Luke's church, a display showing the work of the Trust was mounted in Liverpool cathedral through the month of August 2014. The Trust had a two hour slot for Carol singing at Liverpool Central railway station from 5.00 pm on the Thursday before Christmas. That was both a fund raising event and an opportunity for raising awareness of the work of the Trust through a distribution of leaflets.

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.

Visits

No visits to Rwanda have been organised by the Trust in the reporting period.

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.

Over the year a total of £30,349 has been sent to Rwanda. Details are in the adjacent table.

	Sent, £
Anthony, Shyira Pastor	980
Shyira Parish	720
Moses	820
Butaka parish	2,890
Groupe Scolaire	8,360
CEFOPS cards	164
Safe motherhood	5,455
Children's centre	1,275
Child-headed families	130
Alternative gifts	1,004
Projects	390
Mothers Union	1,260
CEFOPS course	2,000
MU cards	281
Primary school painting	750
Specified Individuals	3,870
	30,349

The corresponding figure in the previous two years was £33,334 (2013-14) and £30,240 (2012-13) 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 and Shyira hospital.

The funds sent since St. Luke's church became involved with Shyira in 2000 now total £288,148. 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. They are elected to serve for three years, after which they may be re-elected. Trustees are required to have been members of the Trust since the AGM prior to the one at which they are nominated for election. 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 should have safeguarding clearance. All have the necessary clearance. Officers are selected from trustees by the membership at the AGM.

These present arrangements have applied since the 2014 AGM, and an EGM that was called shortly before the AGM. Changes were:

1. Removal of a three-term limit on trustee service
2. Selection of officers by the AGM
3. Selection of the chairman from the trustees rather than by annual election from the membership
4. The introduction of a one year membership requirement as a qualifying period for trustees.

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 Rwanda. 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. The hospital now has a permanent director who can take ownership of the proposals this enabling 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. Child sponsorship must continue. Education is the best way of getting people out of poverty although the Rwandan government is now struggling to pay university fees.
2. The coffee growing project is now suspended until the damage done by the road rebuilding can be assessed and the value of continuing determined.

3. Support for ministry in Shyira and Butaka will continue.
4. Support for child-headed families will probably cease when the present vocational course is completed, but it will be necessary to review the situation at the end of 2015.
5. 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 £400,000
6. Support widows in the Mothers Union, St Marks Church, Shyira.
7. Further development in Butaka will be supported, possibly replacing support that has been given to Shyira but is no longer required.

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 and an extension to support work in Butaka. Funding levels over the past year have held up well.

There has not been a visit to Rwanda in the past year but a visit is desirable in the coming months as plans for the maternity hospital become clearer.