

Shyira Trust

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

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2016

Address

53 Stapleton Rd
Formby
Liverpool
L37 2YT

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 Mr Raymond Kenneth Davies Prof Clifford Allan Hobson MBE Rev Jane Morgan MBE	Acting Secretary Chairman

Bankers

Barclays Bank
Lord St.
Southport

Patron

The Rt Revd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool.

Volunteers

Mrs Margaret Cooke	Assisting a trustee with Child Sponsorship
Mr Peter Morgan	Gift aid officer

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 Shyira hospital; staff, patients and families, on young people and support for widows. Children who were members of child-headed families are now young adults and support for them was switched to providing a vocational course so that people

deprived of schooling may be trained for employment in the community. Tools were provided for people completing the course and they should now be self-supporting so our work with the families is now complete. The coffee project remains suspended until people in Shyira can assess its future, if any, following devastating storm damage of 2012. There has been one visit to Rwanda, this taking place in January/February 2016 and involving one trustee, the trust's gift aid officer and a supporter. A newsletter was published following the visit.

The present maternity hospital in Shyira was provided through St. Luke's church in Formby and opened in April 2004. Subsequently the Trust paid for two nurses from the hospital to study to become midwives. Death rates were reduced and the hospital became very popular. When visiting Formby in April 2007 Dr Caleb King, then the Medical Director of Shyira Hospital, told of the need to extend the maternity building – he suggested the addition of a second floor. Later it became clear that insufficient was known about the foundation of the building and their ability to carry the weight of a second floor. An extension or new building was therefore suggested and various schemes were produced. Other parts of the hospital were very old – dating back to the time of the East African Revival and the Rwandan government became aware of their poor state. They have now required the construction of a new building, with a construction time of 12 months.

The estimated cost of the new building is £3 million. If the diocese can raise £1 million then the hospital will continue to be a church facility. The Trust had previously been asked if it could raise £300,000 for the proposed extension and had been clear in its response - as a small charity the amount of £300,000 would be very difficult but we would raise whatever we can. The maternity section of the new hospital will cost considerably more than £300,000 but with the government paying $\frac{2}{3}$ of the cost our target remains unchanged. We shall need to interest other organisations in helping raise the money.

Other groups the Trust has worked with include:

- St. Luke's church, Formby. Many of the Trust's members are also members of the church, and the church has a parish-to-parish link with St. Mark's parish in Shyira, a link supported by the Trust. The Trust is a spin-off from work started by the church.
- An ordained minister also a trustee, and previously a midwife, supports safe motherhood through the Trust and has raised money to pay for the education and training of two midwives, and continues to support one of them in their role as Head of Midwifery. The support takes the form of financial contributions to give a total salary that is competitive with salaries paid elsewhere in Rwanda.
- St. Thomas' church Lydiat who are actively supporting the safe motherhood work, and the provision of a maternity extension.
- Holy Trinity Southport and St Philips and St Paul's with Wesley, Southport have supported safe motherhood, the primary school and the widows in the Mothers Union.
- Kirkby Christian fellowship who have been fundraising for the maternity extension.
- The last twelve months has seen the link between the Shyira Trust and Range High School continue with the production of the biennial 2016 calendar. Half the profit from sales (£373.25) went towards the new maternity hospital rebuild in Shyira. The school had also made other donations to the Trust. Changes in personnel at Range over the past year has resulted in a delay regarding the exploration of re-establishing links between the school and

its opposite equivalent in Shyira, Groupe Scolaire. We still hope to develop and re-open the links over the next academic year.

- Various groups 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. These include the Mothers Union at St Oswald Netherton, WOW group at Holy Trinity Formby, friends of the ordained minister and a group based in Our Lady of Victories church hall, Hightown.

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 15 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. We can foresee the nature of our work in Rwanda changing, as we extend to other places, Butaka for example. These are places where the poverty reminds us of Shyira when we first went there.

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. The young people appreciate the help they get. Recently our chairman had a phone call from a former student, speaking on behalf of his group, thanking people who had helped them and transformed their lives.
- One exceptionally deprived group is widows. They generally work together providing mutual support to the benefit of all. Money has been provided to help increase their living standards, and that support will continue.
- The children's centre has been completed, and we have 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 further donation to the Shyira Maternity Hospital to enable it to update some facilities and equipment.
- The maternity hospital replacement, as explained above.

One newsletter was produced over the year. It was dated March 2016, was a review of the situation in Shyira following a trustee visit. Talks have, once again, been given to several community groups. The Trust had a two hour slot for Carol singing at Liverpool Central railway station from 5.00 pm on the Thursday a week 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

There has been just one visit to Rwanda in the reporting period.

Developments in the past year

- The Trust had an on-line giving account but a change was forced on us because the organisation closed down. A review of possible on-line giving organisations was carried out. It was found that MyDonate, a BT company, had the lowest deductions and no standing charge. The only deductions from donations are the charges levied by banks for the use of cards - £0.15 per debit card donation and 1.3% of the donation for credit card use.
- In the past all trustees have had child protection clearance, but there are changes making safeguarding of vulnerable adults and young people important. Some trustees have already received safeguarding training through other roles, and the others will receive training shortly.
- It has always been Trust practice that important management tasks be carried out by trustees. However, some exceptions have occurred – Gift Aid was initially the responsibility of Peter Morgan, then a trustee. Peter built up considerable expertise and has continued to be Gift Aid Officer since he ceased to be a trustee. Child sponsorship is the responsibility of trustee Colin Cooke, but he receives help from his wife Margaret. Both Gift Aid and Child Sponsorship involve confidential information and money and trustees felt the need to recognise their work. Both Peter and Margaret have been designated as volunteer helpers of the Trust. It is recognised that many other people do voluntary work for the Trust, but without having special responsibility for confidential information.
- Trustees debated the appointment of a patron, and who may be approached. The Rt Revd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool, was approached because he was in the group along with our chairman that toured Rwanda in 2000, and so would know about the country and about Shyira. Bishop Paul was gracious in accepting, and we hope we may see him at a future AGM.

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 has applied with the Trust retaining money until it is needed in Rwanda.

This year has seen a need for some of the money held back in previous years. £31,300 sent to help provide a new maternity facility is partly money raised this year, but includes some money previously retained

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 £60,334 has been sent to Rwanda. Details are in the adjacent table.

The corresponding figure in the previous two years was £30,349 (2014-15) and £33,334 (2013-14). The figures for this year are distorted by the support given to the maternity hospital and make year-on-year comparisons difficult.

Included in alternative gifts is funding for safe motherhood, child headed families and Shyira hospital.

	Sent, £
Anthony	610
Shyira Parish	700
Moses	930
Butaka parish	7535
Groupe Scolaire	7,938
Safe motherhood	3,200
New maternity	31,300
Alternative gifts	762
Mothers Union/widows	1125
CEFOPS course	2,854
MU cards	135
Specified Individuals	3,200
Tubakunde	45
	60,334

The funds sent since St. Luke's church became involved with Shyira in 2000 now total £348,482 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 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.

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.

Trustees meet three or four times a year to consider the progress of the Trust, and to review 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.

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, for example, in extensive discussions about the need for a maternity hospital extension and the design of the building.

This approach has always worked. 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 takes ownership of the proposals allowing good progress to be made in development.

No new areas of support have been identified this year, and we plan to continue with existing projects as 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 renovation after storms can be assessed and the value of continuing determined.
3. Support for ministry in Shyira and Butaka will continue.
4. The Trust's most important future work in Shyira must be the development of maternity services and safe motherhood. Firm proposals are now available.
5. Support widows in the Mothers Union, St Marks Church, Shyira.
6. 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 been one visit to Rwanda in the past year.