

# 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 2017

### 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	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 in secondary school and support for widows. There has not been a visit to Rwanda this past year but one is planned for July 2017 and possibly for February 2018. Two people from Kivu

diocese, which includes Shyira parish, have been invited to Formby in May 2017, this helping in one of the Trusts powers – the promotion of friendship, understanding and fellowship between the people of and in the districts surrounding the parishes of St. Mark's Shyira and St. Luke's Formby

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 – they were opened on June 9<sup>th</sup> 1938 by King Mutara III Rudahigwa. That was all part of the East African Revival and the Rwandan government had recently become aware of their poor state. They have now required the construction of a new building, with a construction time of 12 months. The new hospital is to open in July 2017, and will include enhanced maternity facilities.

There was an important consideration for Shyira diocese – the hospital had a Christian foundation, was largely staffed by Christians who were paid by the government and retained its original missionary outlook. The diocese was concerned that the new hospital should have a similar status to the old one but that required a large financial contribution to the new building. After extensive discussions with government representatives it was agreed, because of the short timescale, that the diocese would provide the land for the building and would pay for the relocation of people whose homes were on the land. That amounted to £125,000

The building is costing about £5 million. The Trust will do its best to raise the £125,000 for the land, and initially sent £35,000 followed by some smaller amounts. The diocese borrowed £90,000 on a ten year loan at 16.5% annual interest. The risk is that the interest will accumulate faster than we can repay the loan so we must plan some active fundraising.

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 his 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.
- 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. The school had made other donations to the Trust. The forthcoming visit of two Rwandese to Formby will involve them spending time in Range and, since one of them is head teacher of Groupe Scolaire de Shyira, will support future development of school links.

- 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 the 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 16 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. Most 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 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.
- 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 women are split into groups, or "families" that provide mutual support and organise the expenditure of any income the group receives.
- 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 midwife who had been trained with support from the Trust receiving a salary top-up.
- The maternity hospital replacement, as explained above.

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, normally 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 not been a visit in the reporting period, although one is planned to take place in June/July 2017.

## Developments in the past year

- The Trust has encouraged the use of its MyDonate account for a wider range of activities – child sponsorship for example. The advantages are a reduction in the paperwork associated with Gift Aid and faster collection of Gift Aid.
- In the past all trustees have had child protection clearance, but there are changes making safeguarding of vulnerable adults and young people important. A policy for safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is now under development.

## 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 safe motherhood programme is an example of where this has applied 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 £28,660 has been sent to Rwanda. Details are in the adjacent table. The table shows only money that actually arrived in Rwanda – due to a banking error significant charges were levied on one transfer and subsequently refunded by the bank. That money therefore went through our accounts twice but only arrived in Rwanda once.

The corresponding figure in the previous two years was £60,334 (2015-6) and £30,349 (2014-15). The figures for 2015-6 are distorted by the support given to the maternity hospital and make year-on-year comparisons difficult, however it does appear that in the present difficult financial climate our income is down this year.

Alternative gifts have been treated differently in some cases to previously by putting some money into other headings. For example, gifts for maternity building have been transferred to “new maternity”.

The Trust has agreed to pay for the visit of two people from Rwanda to Formby using some of the money from a small legacy that was intended to further the work of St. Luke’s in Rwanda. Paying the cost of visas is part of that commitment.

The funds sent since St. Luke’s church became involved with Shyira in 2000 now total £376,895. 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

	Sent, £
Pastor, St Marks Shyira	1,100
Shyira Parish	1,335
Pastor, Butaka	1,090
Butaka parish	2,075
Groupe Scolaire	6,825
Primary school paint	£250
Safe motherhood	2,200
New maternity	10,720
Alternative gifts	455
Mothers Union/widows	855
CEFOPS course	250
MU cards	165
Specified Individuals	915
Tubakunde	25
Visas	400
	£28,660

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 Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance. All have or had 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 by others 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. There is one other important consideration in this – the work of the trust is about people and friendship and visits, either way, build up relationships.

### **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.

### **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 including St. Luke's and other Churches.

- 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 – there is early planning for a visit next February.

### **The future.**

In the forthcoming visit of the Bishop of Kivu Diocese and the Pastor of Shyira Parish, and at our AGM in June it will be necessary to review the achievements of the Trust and its possible future work. Initially St. Luke's church and later the Trust have worked to restore the community of Shyira following the 1994 genocide. The work started in 2001 and many people have been helped. Now people have a smile back on their faces and there is happiness back in the community.

There is also some extreme poverty and one of the Trust's objects is the alleviation of poverty. The Rwandan government has a policy of "Education for All" and they have made almost all schooling free. Some families are so poor that they are unable to take advantage of the free schooling because they can't buy school clothing or books, they can't pay for lunches, or meet other costs associated with education. By supporting the very poor in attendance at school the Trust will be able to reduce poverty.

Technical education is still not free, and continues to be boarding but it is some of the poorest young people who can benefit from technical school. Supporting children to attend the CEFOPS technical school in Shyira would be new for the Trust but very beneficial to the young people.

Shyira will soon have a new hospital, and the diocese has a large loan to repay resulting from land purchase. The Trust must give some priority to helping with repayment of the loan.

Other areas of support continue as follows:

1. Support for ministry in Shyira and Butaka.
2. Support for widows in the Mothers Union, St Marks Church, Shyira.
3. Butaka church/community centre and ministers house to be completed. So far this is work supported by St. Luke's church but we should now consider helping so that the time to completion may be reduced
4. Further development in Butaka will be considered for support, 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 declined slightly.

There has not been a visit to Rwanda in the past year but one or possibly two are planned for the coming year.