

Shyira Trust

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

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2018

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. One trustee was co-opted this past year.

The trustees were:

PCC Nominees	Mr Kenneth Hugh Dixon Mrs June McGibbon	Treasurer
Elected	Mr Colin Cooke Mr Raymond Kenneth Davies Prof Clifford Allan Hobson MBE Rev Jane Morgan MBE	Secretary Chairman
Co-opted	Mr Peter Morgan	

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 (also co-opted as a trustee)

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, as before, centred on support for Shyira hospital; staff, patients and families; on young people in secondary school and support for widows. There was a visit of two people to Rwanda with others planned for October 2018 and February 2019. Two people from Kivu diocese, Bishop Augustin Ahimana and the pastor of Shyira, Revd Anthony Ruzindana, came 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.

Maternity services in Shyira have been a priority since a first visit in 2000. St Luke's church members raised money for a building to replace one damaged in genocide, and since its formation the Trust has been supporting midwifery education. More recently the Government of Rwanda condemned the general hospital buildings, provided in 1938 by the Ruanda Mission, and built a new hospital in the valley below Shyira. There was an agreement between Kivu Diocese and the Government that if the diocese could purchase the land and relocate people who had been living and working on it then the diocese would retain the hospital as a Christian Foundation. The cost to the diocese was about £125,000. The Trust paid for the relocation of previous land owners and the diocese took out a loan to complete the purchase. The Trust was helping the diocese repay the loan but then an amazing thing happened – the Trust was given a gift of £½ million that enabled the entire loan to be repaid.

This special gift is ring fenced to pay for medical projects agreed between the donor and Bishop Augustin when he was with us in May 2017. Further payments have now been made for the purchase of an industrial washing machine, the construction of a kitchen for use of carers and the salary for three midwives for a year, all at the new hospital, and the provision of a health post at Ngoma. The balance of the gift has been invested in deposit accounts in amounts not exceeding £85,000 so that they are safe and secure while paying some interest.

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 previously raised money to pay for the education and training of two midwives, and continued 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. This support was no longer required from summer 2017 due to the restructure of staff personnel following the move to the new hospital in July 2017.
- 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 supported repairs to a storm damaged school.
- The last twelve months have seen the link between the Shyira Trust and Range High School continue. The school had made other donations to the Trust. Our Rwandan visitors took part in classes and assemblies and a student from Range carried out a sponsored cycle ride, raising money for use in Shyira. There is a possibility of a student and/or staff visit to Rwanda in February 2019.
- 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

WOW group at Holy Trinity Formby, friends of the ordained minister and a group based in Our Lady of Victories church hall, Hightown.

- Talks are given by invitation to various groups. These talks are useful in telling about the work of the Trust and also in helping people to understand something of Rwanda. Usually these talks produce a small income for the Trust but on occasion they have resulted in individuals or groups becoming more involved in the work of the Trust.

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 17 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 dominates many people's lives. We can foresee the nature of our work in Rwanda changing, and discussed this with Bishop Augustin when he was with us. He expressed the wish that the Trust should continue to serve the people of Shyira parish and the wider Kivu diocese, working as before with project proposals coming from the people.

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, but has been extended to include the CEFOPS technical school. CEFOPS has boarding students and it was agreed with our Rwandan visitors in May that these students should be able to benefit from sponsorship.
- One exceptionally deprived group is widows. In the past we have supported the widows of Shyira parish, but in consultation with Bishop Augustin it has been agreed that the support should be for widows across Kivu diocese, with the Mothers Union group in Gisenyi determining support priorities in the parishes.
- 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. We have been pleased to learn that the vicar of St. Luke's plans to visit Shyira parish in May 2018.
- In the past we have supported the members of child-headed families. It has saddened Trustees to learn that there are still young people living alone in and around Shyira and it has been agreed that we should support them, especially helping them into education.
- Shyira now has a youth coordinator who has requested help in providing equipment for both male and female teams along with footwear and strip. There are three sports to be played initially, football, volleyball and netball. Young people in rural Rwanda have little opportunity for leisure and we would like to brighten their lives by providing some facilities for sport.
- For several years St. Luke's church supported by the Trust has been providing money for the construction of a church/community centre in Butaka. This work is now nearing completion, but will be supported to completion.
- The special gift is to be used to pay the employment costs of three midwives for three years. Money for the first year has already been sent, leaving two more years to be paid for.
- A health centre at Mutaho is to be equipped, again using money from the special gift.
- Palliative care has been under consideration in Shyira for rather more than a decade. A treatment block, two accommodation blocks and a kitchen/storeroom building have been

constructed, and a further, quite large, building has foundations and the lower part of walls. Also the redundant hospital buildings can be used. In May 2017 Bishop Augustin was taken to Queenscourt Hospice and the adjacent Southport hospital to see the work of a hospice in the UK and to discuss how to start a hospice service in Rwanda. A visit is now planned from Queenscourt and Southport hospital to Shyira to give further advice. That will be in May 2018, and will be in conjunction with people from the church of St. Philip and St Paul with Wesley in Southport. It is important to note that the May 2018 visit is not sponsored by the Trust but does arise from the work of the Trust and the group contains some Trust members.

Some progress has been made in writing the record of the Trust's history 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. These visits may combine with taking other people to give them an experience of Rwanda.

Visits

There has been one visit of two trustees in the reporting period. Among other work they went to be part of the celebration of the opening of the new hospital. They plan a further visit is planned for later in 2018 and a visit involving school students may take place in February 2019.

Developments in the past year

- The main development is the completion of the maternity hospital, and finalising payment for it. Maternity services in Shyira have probably been the main concern of the Trust since its foundation so more time to look at other areas of need is welcome.
- In the past trustees have had child protection clearance, but we are now required by law to have a written policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults. The policy is almost complete, just needing approval from trustees at their meeting in May 2018, and it will be presented to members at the AGM planned for 17 June 2018.

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.

	Sent, £
Pastor, St Marks Shyira	1,070
Shyira Parish	930
Pastor, Butaka	850
Butaka parish	9,765
Child sponsorship	9,440
Primary school paint	500
Special medical projects	114,500
New maternity	128,667
Alternative gifts	585
Mothers Union/widows	1,190
CEFOPS tools/equipment	858
MU cards	85
Specified Individuals	445
Tubakunde	25
Shyira youth sports equipment	2,000
	270,910

Over the year a total of £270,910 has been sent to Rwanda. Details are in the previous table.

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.

£238,500 of this year's transfers has been from the special donation leaving a balance of £32,410 from the Trust's normal activities. The corresponding figure in the previous two years was £28,660 (2016-7) and £60,334 (2015-6). The figures for 2015-6 are distorted by the support given to the maternity hospital but money sent is in line with our long-term donations of around £30,000 per year..

Alternative gifts have been processed by putting some money into other headings. For example, gifts for sports equipment have been transferred to "Shyira youth sports equipment".

Excluding the special donation funds sent since St. Luke's church became involved with Shyira in 2000 now total £409,305. 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. Two further trustees may be co-opted by the six and one was co-opted this year. 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 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 normally 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 have agreed that travel for monitoring of specially funded projects should be paid for by the projects.

Trustees meet four or five 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. There was one such visit this year.

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 people in Rwanda, 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 or parish 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 support for the purchase of sports equipment this year.

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. This, again, is part of building and maintaining relationships between people in Rwanda and people in the UK.

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 in the UK and Groupe Scolaire in Rwanda.
- 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 forthcoming visit to Rwanda of a group from Queenscourt Hospice and Southport Hospital results from the work of the Trust.

The future.

The Trust was originally formed to help the people of Shyira recover from the trauma of genocide. That has involved developing friendships with people and providing for the repair or replacement of infrastructure. Through the entire process maternity services have been at the forefront of the Trust's activities, with both buildings and staff expertise funded. The present situation is that Shyira has been transformed with schools repaired, a new hospital operational, and many groups supported. The people no longer seem downtrodden and in many ways the trust has achieved the original intention of its founders.

The future of the Trust was debated with Bishop Augustin. We were assured that there is still widespread poverty in Kivu diocese and that there is still plenty of work for the Trust to do, some in Shyira, some in Butaka and some in places we have not yet visited.

In Shyira child poverty is still an issue and the Trust will continue to address it. Also the development of a hospice, separate from but working alongside the new hospital is a priority. The Trust currently holds something in excess of £150,000 from the special donation that has been identified as potentially available for the hospice. Also the Trust has “To promote 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” as one of its powers.

Working with Bishop Augustin and the people of Kivu diocese the Trust will develop new areas of work in Rwanda. Considering these new areas of work the present chairman will retire at the end of the AGM this allowing a new chairman to take the trust forward and into new areas of work.

Recently the Department for International Development introduced funding opportunities for small charities working overseas. Grants of up to £50,000 can be made available to charities with approved projects. The next closing date for applications is October 2018. Putting a grant application together is quite possible but the £½ million gift the Trust received may mean that we do not qualify for funding. Trustees will attempt to clarify the situation, and if possible work with Bishop Augustin on an application.

A fund raising concert has been arranged for 1st September. It will be held in St. Luke’s church with performances from the Aughton Male Voice Choir and a guest choir. The choir have requested that the money raised should go to the church/community centre building in Butaka.

In Summary

The strong bond of friendship between the people of Shyira and Trust supporters continues.

A large gift has made a significant difference to the Trust, enabling it to complete its commitments to Shyira maternity hospital and to take on other medical projects as agreed with the Bishop of Kivu diocese. The Trust must now develop its work in new areas with Shyira having undergone a transformation.

There has been one visit to Rwanda in the past year. A visit is planned for Oct 2018 to review progress on projects and a further visit in February 2019 is under consideration.