

# Shyira Trust/St Luke's Church

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January 2011

The first five months of this year see four exchanges of people between Formby and Shyira. In some ways they represent a broadening out of work done in the past by the church and the Shyira Trust, a charity established by the church. Through the exchanges we are working to enable many people, from the church and beyond, to benefit from the experiences of meeting with people from Rwanda, either here in Formby or in Rwanda.

In early January Jane and Peter Morgan went to Shyira for two weeks, Jane to work in the maternity hospital, and to meet Robinah, the only qualified midwife, and Fidel who has just started the final year of his midwifery course. Both Robinah and Fidel are supported by the Shyira Trust funded by scholarships set up by Jane. Peter's purpose was primarily to see the state of some of the projects supported by Shyira Trust.



During Jane's visits to the Maternity hospital, there were four sets of twins born. Twins are fairly uncommon in Shyira, so to have four sets delivered within the space of 12 days is unheard of. The staff joked that they would be glad when Jane left – they could get back to normal.

Robinah reported that there had been no maternal deaths at the hospital during 2010, the first year that this had happened. Deaths have been reducing gradually since St. Luke's funded the rebuilding of the Maternity hospital, and it is probably no coincidence that they have reduced to zero now that the hospital has a qualified midwife in attendance.

The schools re-opened during the second week of the visit, so were tied up with registration. However, there was an opportunity for Jane and Peter to meet some of our sponsored students, and to pass on letters from sponsors. The students who were in last year's 3rd and 6th forms are still awaiting their results, so were not present, but about 30 students did attend the meeting, and spoke gratefully of the opportunities afforded them by the continued support of their sponsors. At the end of the week, a number of letters from the students were delivered to Peter & Jane, and these have been hand-delivered or sent to the sponsors.

Peter spent some time in the 'Ministry of Living Hope' centre, run by the Schumanns, a German missionary family. The centre provides care and learning opportunities for groups, including orphans, children with disabilities, and single mothers. Amongst other things, the mothers learn crafts and English and have formed a choir, and the

orphans are being taught traditional dancing by a former student of CeFoPS.

Amongst other projects visited was the children's centre, pictured alongside, which is well on its way to being built. This is another project funded by members of St. Luke's and the Shyira Trust, and will provide not only a Sunday school, but also an after-school club.



Jane had a wonderful time with the Mother's Union which now has 90 members thanks to the leadership of Pastor Anthony's wife, Peace.

On their first Saturday Jane and Peter went to market at Vunga a 30 minutes downhill walk away, where they bought some cloth to be made into a shirt. The walk back was harder – a 60 minute uphill struggle, but with some magnificent views. The local tailor came to measure up, but forgot his tape measure, yet somehow managed to make a shirt for Peter which was worn to the church services the following weekend.

Worship is as always vibrant and charismatic. Jane and Peter attended the English service at 8am followed by the Kinyarwanda service until lunchtime. Shyira people certainly know how to worship with the many choirs singing and dancing!

### **Shyira Visit, 10-25 February.**

This promises to be a visit like no previous visit. We have 14 people going, with only seven members of St. Luke's. To add some interest the Shyira guest house can only accommodate 8 people! Anthony says there is no problem and that we will be using hospital accommodation.

Our group includes

- Two people from Essex who have been helping the hospital by sending equipment by air freight or container
- Two sixth form students from Range who are going to help develop the Range Groupe Scolaire link that has been developed over the past five years
- A teacher from St. Luke's school who hopes to develop a link to Shyira Primary
- A Deputy Head from Formby High going to develop a link to the very deprived ACEC school
- One of our own members who is a student at Southport College and who will be working on developing sport at ACEC.

Please pray for the visit, for the people going and for their hosts, for success in developing friendships. For the daily activities shown opposite and for safe travelling.

## **Itinerary for Shyira Visit, Feb 2011.**

- 6 February Commissioning of the Group at St. Luke's morning service, starting 10.30am.
- 10 February 03.00, depart Formby by taxi/minibus, going to Liverpool Airport.  
06.00, depart Liverpool on flight KL 1034, destination Amsterdam.  
10.15, depart Amsterdam on flight KL 0563, Destination Kigali.  
21.25, Arrive Kigali and go to Okapi hotel
- 11 February After breakfast change money into Rwandan Francs. Buy SIM cards and gifts paid for by fundraising. Optional visit to National Genocide Memorial. Lunch in Kigali.  
After lunch depart Kigali in hired minibus for Ruhengeri. Check into guest house.
- 12 February Six people to visit Mountain Gorillas, taking some Shyira people with them. Others visiting baby orphanage and other places around Ruhengeri. Travel to Shyira and check into guest house.
- 13 February Church service—Harvie is preaching. Meet students from the schools and other people.
- 14-18 February Two people working in Groupe Scolaire, two in ACEC and one in the primary school but with options to see the other schools and hospital. Visits to projects, child headed families, etc.
- 19 February Walk to the market in Vunga. A day for people to do as they wish.
- 20 February As previous Sunday, but with Allan preaching and Margaret reading. Final day with new friends from the schools and the community. Probable meeting with Parish Council in evening.
- 21 February Travel to Gisenyi via the Bigogwe refugee village. Overnight at the well named Paradise Hotel near Gisenyi and on the shore of Lake Kivu.
- 22-23 February Either Visit to Akagera National Park, staying overnight in a game lodge, or to the resort town of Kibuye on the shore of Lake Kivu, staying in a hotel.
- 24 February Return to Kigali. Optional shopping. Coffee at Hotel Mille Collines (made famous by the film Hotel Rwanda). After dinner go to airport, arriving by 19.30.  
22.30. Depart Kigali on flight KL 0564, destination Amsterdam.
- 25 February Arrive Amsterdam at about 08.15  
09.20. Depart Amsterdam on flight KL 1035, Destination Liverpool.  
09.45. Arrive Liverpool, and travel to Formby by pre-ordered taxi/minibus.
- 27 February Report back to the church after 10.30 service (about 12.00 noon)
- 4 March Evening meeting for sponsors and people interested in Groupe Scolaire.

## Rwandans to visit Formby

Two groups of people are to come from Rwanda to Formby. It is hoped that the first group will arrive here on 25th February at the same time as the group of 14 people return to Formby. The second group will come at the end of April and beginning of May.

Peter Morgan was recently able to give help and guidance to the four visitors who hope to be travelling to Formby in February. Their visit is being funded with the help of a grant from Global Community Links, funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development, DfID.

The four visitors in the first group are all from Groupe Scolaire. They are Pastor Anthony the school's headmaster, Gervais – a deputy-head, and two students – Fanissa, who is sponsored by one of our members, and David, the son of Pastor Anthony. Peter helped them to fill in their visa application forms which ran to over 100 questions in the simplest case. Having Peter in Shyira and able to help with the forms was a real help

Obtaining visas is an essential prerequisite to the visit, and is an unknown challenge. We are not able to submit the applications until 1st February because that is when the DfID funding starts, and we should know within 15 days if the application has been successful.

DfID funding is so that our visitors can tell the students of Range High School of their experiences of poverty and why the millennium development goals are important in their country. Therefore they will be spending quite a lot of time in Range. Also we anticipate that we shall have opportunities to meet and get to know them, especially at a bring-and-share-lunch on 27 February, at an evening meeting on 4th March and after our service on 6th March.

We need people to provide accommodation, meals and/or outings for our guests. Please contact a Trustee or put your offer of hospitality on the list in church.

Note that Shyira is presently 2 hours in front of Formby.



Left:  
Gervais and Fanissa

Right  
Anthony and David.

More information will be given about the second group nearer the time of their visit.

Also see St Luke's parish magazine for February .

