

Friends of Burundi Annual Report & Financial Statement 2015-16

Registered Charity No. 1117715

General Introduction Following the disputed election in Burundi, last year, many expected the country to implode in a major way along racial lines. Happily, that has not happened. However, there have been frequent killings of government supporters and of their opponents. Non-government radio stations have been closed and journalists have been imprisoned. Aid has been cut off. Most ex-patriots have returned home. The economy has collapsed. And many are starving. People within the country report constant fear. It's a country that needs our support more than ever.

Governance

The trustees remain as Keith Anderson, William Challis, Hugh James and Andrew Maclay.

The Committee

were all re-elected at the 2015 Annual General Meeting,
Officers Chairman: William Challis, Secretary: Hugh James, Treasurer: Andrew Maclay,
Assistant Secretaries: Pam Brooks and Sue Finlayson,
Other Committee members: Roger/Miranda Bowen, Pat /Pam Brooks, Georgette Butera, Alison Gill and David Shillitoe.

Meetings of the Trustees

The Trustees met at the time of the Annual Meeting, on 3 October 2015. They also held a 45 minute Telephone Conference Call at 2.0pm on 30 October 2015. The main agenda item was disbursement of the donations to be made (see below) there were also discussions about supervision of the donations. In February 2016 the trustees held an email discussion on whether any policies needed to be established. There was agreement on a policy on Conflict of Interest.

Meetings of the Committee

The Committee met as a group on 3 October 2015 prior to the 2015 Annual Meeting. The committee approved the 2014-15 Annual Report and the Financial Statement for the 11 months up to the meeting, which had been circulated by e-mail prior to the meeting. The members also received minutes of the Trustees' telephone conference. It was decided to attempt to hold the 2016 Committee Meeting by email.

The 2015 Annual General Meeting

This was held at 2pm on 3 October 2015 in the Orchard Hall, at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, during the CMS Africa Region Conference.

Present : Total 26 (Trustees: 3, Other Committee: 2, Other Members; 18, Others: 3

Business.

The minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were approved.

The 2014-15 Annual Report and Financial Statement (which had been circulated previously) were presented and explained. Due to the unusually early date of this conference, the financial statement was only for the first 11 months. The accounts for the full year were circulated by email soon after the meeting.

There were presentations from six people about work in, or visits to, Burundi:

- a. **Alison Gill** – Partners Together International is helping to train Christian leaders to speak into the political situation.
- b. **Paul Guinness** – Being in Burundi is a journey of faith with many cross cultural challenges. Discipleship training is of paramount importance.

Paul and Alison were congratulated on their engagement.

- c. **William Challis** travelled to Burundi with Jack Robson – a youth worker. At Matana 40 pastors gathered for 4 days of workshops. An evening meeting in Bujumbura Cathedral had drawn quite a large group.
- d. William Challis also presented a PowerPoint report on the **Bujumbura Christian University** prepared by Hugh James from data sent by Donald Werner. At the time, there were 16 students, from all except one Anglican Dioceses, a Methodist and a Pentecostal,
- e. **Simon Guillebaud** answered questions concerning the current tense political situation.
- f. **Sally Botteley** spoke about her summer visit to Uganda and Rwanda encouraging the projects on Itambira Island – Seeds of Hope – and the work of REACH in Rwanda.
- g. **Good Causes.** We saw slides of some of the projects that had been supported by our Good Cause fund, last year, totalling £5,500 with £800 additional Emergency Aid sent in 2015 for the Makamba floods. The particular projects are itemised in the accounts:

Oxford meeting at Headington Baptist Church on 19 March 2016

This was principally a meeting in which Emmanuel Ndikumana, who leads Partners Trust International spoke of the background to the Burundi troubles and the Church's response. There was also a time of prayer.

Southampton Meeting on Saturday 7 May 2016 at St James' Parish Church, Shirley, Southampton Friends of Burundi had publicised and supported this CMS Mid-Africa meeting, Paul and Alison Guinness spoke on Burundi and William Challis was in the chair. Other items considered different CMS work in Africa

Communication with Members.

Apart from administrative details, the following emails were sent to members, with a request that they pray.

Call for Good Cause Nominations

Link to the Anglican news website for details and pictures of Archbishop Nyaboho's installation

Email of and best wishes and assurance of our prayers to Archbishop Nyaboho.

Announcement of the Annual General Meeting and call for speakers

Email of congratulations to Archbishop Nyaboho.

Announcement of the election of Archbishop Nyaboho

Announcement of a youth convention at Matana

Forwarding from Donald Werner of encouraging news of the development of Bujumbura Christian University

Circulation to members of the meeting notes from the Southampton meeting

Reminder of the Southampton Day conference

Distribution of the Flyer for the Africa Day conference in Southampton.

Distribution of the minutes and documents from the Oxford Headington Day conference

Circulation of two documents prepared by the Anglican Alliance following up on the Archbishop of Canterbury's call to pray for Burundi.

Flyer for the Headington Oxford meeting.

Link to details of the Archbishop's visit to Burundi, talks with the president, and visit to Bujumbura Christian University.

Link to the BBC News report of the Archbishop's visit to Burundi

Forward of news of Bujumbura Christian University, including prayer for a replacement of Canon Donald Werner as Vice Chancellor.

Announcement of the Headington Oxford meeting

Details of my annual return to the Charity Commissioners for Friends of Burundi

Circulation of notes from a workshop on Burundi which took place at Church House, Westminster, organised by the Anglican Alliance.

Links to details of the Headington speaker, Emmanuel Ndikumana and Partnership Trust International

Links to the BBC News and the grave situation in Burundi

An overview of the situation in Burundi

Another update on the situation in Burundi.

News of the development of the Bujumbura Christian University

Circulation of revised annual report including the full year financial statement.
Another link updating the situation in Burundi.

Donations.

Nomination Forms for suggested donations to Charitable and Christian causes in Burundi were sent out to all members. These were then discussed at the Annual Committee in 2015 and by the Trustees. Donations towards eight projects totalling £7952.40 were agreed and were distributed in the year 2015-2016. The trustees agreed that these seemed a fair mixture of relief and development work combined with Church support. The details can be found in the accounts.

Gifts for Matana Hospital

One of these projects was for Matana hospital – resulting from special donations in memory of Dr Geoff Stanley Smith. We have now been able to send money to provide 55 new mattresses at Matana hospital. Those who had seen the old ones were agreed that they were falling to pieces, insanitary and uncomfortable. Because of the delay, one donor asked that their gift should be donated to the of Matana. This was done.

Installation of the new Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Burundi, on 21 August 2016 William Challis was able to be present to represent Friends of Burundi at this joyful occasion in Bujumbura cathedral when Archbishop Martin Nyaboho, Bishop of Makamba, succeeded Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi.

Archbishop of Canterbury's call for prayer for Burundi

We were very encouraged by the nationwide call of the Archbishop of Canterbury for prayer for Burundi, leading up to Easter

Website.

The Friends of Burundi website (www.friendsofburundi.org.uk) has continued to be regularly updated throughout the year. The secretary is pleased to be given information of news that should be added.

Accounts

Due to the early date of the Annual General Meeting, the accounts presented now, for discussion at that meeting, are only for 11 months, up to the end of August. The full accounts will be emailed to members as soon as they are available.

2016 Annual General Meeting

The Next Annual General Meeting will be taking place on Saturday 8 October at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

Conclusion:

The controversy regarding the right of Burundi's president to stand and be elected for a third term of office adds to the instability of this impoverished nation which is only 10 years beyond a disastrous Civil War. It is our privilege to stand with the Churches and individual Christians in Burundi, as they seek to witness to the love of Christ in this difficult situation.

William Challis (Chairman)
Hugh James (Hon. Secretary)
12 September 2016

Friends of Burundi Annual financial Report for the 11 months ended 1 September 2016

I am pleased to present to you the accounts of Friends of Burundi for the 11 months ended 1 September 2016. We received membership subscriptions in the year from 46 people (2013: 50). We received a further £4,198 (2013: £4,758) in donations during the year. The membership fees and donations have principally been spent on projects in Burundi, as set out below. The trustees transferred the money collected from the Stanley Smith Memorial service to the Diocese in Matana, which purchased 55 new mattresses for Matana hospital, as this was identified as the hospital's greatest need. The trustees have asked for suggestions for projects this year in Autumn 2016, and expect to use the majority of the money available for the selected projects.

Income	2016	2015
	£	£
Membership subscriptions	460.00	500.00
Donations	4,227.80	4,853.00
Gifts for Stanley-Smith hospital fund		70.00
Gift for Matana hospital		1,400.00
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	716.33	1,151.97
Interest from Scottish Widows deposit	0.09	0.08
Compensation from Lloyds TSB		380.00
Total income	5,404.22	8,355.05
Expenditure		
Purchase of mattresses (Stanley Smith memorial fund)	2,330.00	
Assistance to the poor in Matana	1,400.00	
Great Lakes Outreach - assistance to the poor	219.50	
Buye protected water springs project	1,000.00	1,000.00
Rema Ministries training event	1,000.00	
Alpha Burundi - running Alpha courses	500.00	1,000.00
Goat project for 20 needy families, Kayanza	502.90	
Bujumbura Christian University	1,000.00	
Scripture Union, Burundi training course		1,000.00
Great Lakes School of Theology (support for 2 students)		750.00
REMA training workshops		1,000.00
Ishirahamwe village co-operative		750.00
Makamba - assistance following floods		800.00
Information Commission subscription	35.00	35.00
Bank/Western Union charges	21.00	120.61
Website costs	68.39	
Meeting costs	55.50	
Total Expenditure	8,132.29	6,455.61
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(2,728.07)	1,899.44
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Lloyds TSB balance at beginning of year	8,509.14	6,609.78
Scottish Widows balance at beginning of year	32.66	32.58
	5,813.73	8,541.80
Collected for Matana hospital (Stanley-Smith memorial £2,328.75, other (£1,400)		3,728.75
Lloyds TSB Balance available for general funds	5,780.98	4,780.39
Scottish Widows balance at end of year	32.75	32.66
	5,813.73	8,541.80
Andrew Maclay Treasurer, Trustee , 20 September, 2016		

