

KISUMU CHILDREN TRUST

**THE CHERRY BRIERLEY CHILDREN'S HOME,
KISUMU, KENYA**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1091477

Report

for the year ending 31st December 2024

KISUMU CHILDREN TRUST

Reference and Administrative Information

Address for Correspondence	Dr Peter Brierley, 1b, Thorpe Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 4PW
Registered Charity Number	1091477
Governing Document	Trust Deed dated 25 th February 2002, as amended by resolution dated 12 th March 2011, and as amended by resolution dated 19 th May 2018
Trustees	Dr Peter Brierley (Acting Chair and previous treasurer) Graham Collison (resigned 20 th June 2024) Michael Dare (retired 12 th October 2024) Eric Deeben (resigned 2 nd November 2024) Samara Earl (resigned 26 th February 2024) Ivo de Freitas (resigned 14 th September 2024) Kathryn de Freitas (resigned 14 th September 2024) Jonathan Goodes (from 19 th January 2025; present treasurer) Alan Hewerdine (from 20 th May 2024) Steve Roderick (Vice-Chair) Graeme Shaw (from 13 th January 2025) Tim Simpson (resigned 20 th November 2024)
Principal Banker	CAF Bank Ltd., 25, Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ
Patrons	Rt Rev Michael Hill, former Bishop of Bristol Mgr Michael Nazir-Ali, former Bishop of Rochester Ram Gidoomal, CBE, Entrepreneur and Businessman
Independent Examiner	Andrew Simmonds FCA
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KISUMU CHILDREN TRUST

Trustee Report for the Year ending 31st December 2024

The Trustees of the Kisumu Children Trust [KCT] are pleased to present their report for the year ending 31st December 2024.

Objects

The chief objects of the charity, as given in our Charity Commission authorisation of 28th March 2002, are:

- To help relieve and alleviate poverty by developing suitable facilities for children living in Kisumu, Kenya,
- To advance the Christian religion and
- To promote and advance education and training.

It has undertaken these primarily by providing through voluntary giving all the necessary costs for looking after 90 sponsored children formerly part of a residential orphanage in Tieng're, Kenya (a small village some 7 miles west of Kisumu), supporting local care-givers, and supporting some of the impoverished children in the local Tieng're and Dr Robert Ouko Comprehensive Schools.

UK Governance

The Board of Trustees had nine members at the start of 2024 and five members in January 2025 (one having reached the limit of his tenure, six resigning and three joining). The five included the Acting Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and two other Trustees. Together they were responsible for organisational maintenance, largely through three part-time self-employed Staff members. The following responsibilities are undertaken:

- Regular meetings of the Trustees in the UK, nine in 2024, eight of which by Zoom.
- Starting of regular "Team" meetings, three held in 2024, of up to five members of the Kisumu Leadership Team, all Staff members and Chair, all by Zoom.
- Recording of income and expenditure using the Donor Perfect programmes.
- Correspondence with supporters and sponsors either individually or collectively through our quarterly newsletter *Kisumu News*, through Lynn Allen, Bookkeeper and Administrator.
- Liaison with the work in Kisumu through the Home's Manager, Philemon Oguna, mostly through Trustee Michael Dare.
- Liaising with the local Tieng're Community, including the Tieng're School, mostly through reports from our CBCH Social Worker, Pamela Akoth, who started work on 1st January 2023 which was continued throughout 2024.
- Overseeing the co-ordination of all the schooling of sponsored and supported children, primarily undertaken by Kenyan Assistant Manager Manase Oukoh.
- Co-ordinating the work of the UK Staff Team in bookkeeping, financial management and sponsorship support (Lynn Allen, as above), social media and newsletter compiler (Aneta Dabek, Media Officer) and contacting Grant Making Trusts (GMTs) seeking financial support for projects (Alan Hewerdine, Support Officer).
- Peter Brierley was appointed Treasurer by the Trustees in 2017, and renewed in 2020, but has passed this responsibility now to Jonathan Goodes, a new Trustee.

The Trustees did not attend exhibitions or events where the work of the Trust could be displayed (like the Christian Resources' Exhibition) in 2024 but did take various speaking engagements, and promotion of individual sponsorships in person for the children in our care, and fund-raising, including through GMTs and social media. A public Annual Meeting was held on 12th October 2024 in St Luke's Church, Watford.

Kenyan governance

The local management of the Cherry Brierley Children's Home [CBCH] in Kisumu, Kenya, is undertaken by:

- Manager, Rev Philemon Oguna, an Anglican minister, and his team, consisting of:
- Assistant Manager (Manase Ouma Oukoh, appointed in 2015),
- Matron (Winnie Olango, appointed as Assistant Matron in January 2018, and promoted to Matron in December 2022),
- Peter Nyidha (appointed in 2015 as Facilities' Co-ordinator, overseeing self-sufficiency developments such as the poly-tunnel and other vegetable growing, both for Home and local consumption, now Operations Officer).
- Social Worker Pamela Akoth (appointed as Matron to CBCH in January 2015, but appointed as Social Worker in December 2022, see below)

This partially resident management team of five people meet each week under Philemon's leadership, and now meetings with UK staff members each month by Zoom.

One Guard was made redundant in 2024 and the other died suddenly in 2025, but now replaced. Those remaining in 2024 were: Doris Achieng Sewe (Cook), Domnick Ong'onga (Assistant Cook), Calvin Otieno Osako (Woodcutter), George Ndon'ga (the now deceased Guard) and Silas Ochieng Ago (Groundsman).

CBCH has been the major component of Kisumu Children Ministries (KCM) which is a recognised non-profit organisation in Kenya (Registration Certificate Number 1340616) and has a Board of 8 Kenyan Trustees. These are the Chair, Jo-an Olachi (Children's Officer in Kisii, a neighbouring county), Simon Osege (the Chief of the Area), Alice Aoko Omollo (Headmistress of Tieng're Comprehensive School, who retired as Headmistress in October 2024 but remains a Trustee), Pauline Ochingo (wife of a local business man), and Rev Bethwell Rogo (local Anglican minister). They try to meet four times a year.

Kenyan governance is wider than the KCM Board. The West Kisumu Children's Department has responsibility for the care of children in its catchment area which includes the CBCH Home. Their Social Department exercises similar responsibility and the local Chief undertakes administrative authority including registrar, judge and other civic responsibilities. In December 2022 both these authorities plus the Headmistress (for the local Education Officer) agreed to the appointment of a CBCH Social Worker for the District for an initial five-year period. The salary and support expenses would be paid by KCT (who had a Restricted Fund specifically for such a purpose given to us by a Grant Making Trust). Pamela Akoth, previously Matron of CBCH, was appointed.

The Kenyan Government Covid restrictions finally ceased in April 2023, so 2024 was free of the requirements initiated under this programme. Activities started by the Home during the Covid period, such as feeding 100 impoverished local children a lunch six days a week has continued and in April 2024 was increased to 150 lunches per day.

Kenyan Education System

The Kenyan education system started originally for children at age 6 who attended Primary School until 14 when they took the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination. This was marked out of 500, and those obtaining a mark of 260 or over were then allotted a Secondary School, most of them single-sex boarding schools. These were attended until they were 18, when they took their Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination which was marked on a scale from A to E. Those getting B+ or an A were eligible for University with a government grant for their tuition (but not their accommodation).

The Kenyan Government in 2023 changed the middle years of this sequence from an 8 to 4 years system into a 6-3-3 system, making it similar to the system we have in England. From 1st January 2023 children aged 6 to 12 would go to Primary School, then from 13 to 15 to a Junior

Secondary School and from 15 to 18 to a Senior Secondary School. The possibility of starting school before 6, Pre-School, and going to College or other tertiary education post-18 was unaltered.

The KCPE exam was cancelled, and last taken in November 2023. Primary School tuition is largely free in Kenya (pupils needing to pay a small school levy each year and have a school uniform) whereas Secondary Education, especially if boarding, has to be paid for, and is almost prohibitively expensive for poorer parents. Most Primary Schools (used to having some children of 13 and 14) were now expected to cater for all 13, 14 and 15 year olds (no extra funds being made available for having an extra classroom or two), and those in Junior Secondary School would be expected to pay for their tuition. Many existing Primary Schools became Comprehensive Schools overnight (= previous Primary + new Junior Secondary)! Existing Secondary Schools, now with only three years of fees instead of four, would still be expected to function as before, though inevitably their fees would increase. The Government saved by not having to pay now for schooling for children aged 13 and 14.

This all took place in 2023 when children were recovering from the stresses of a 4-term year in 2021 and 2022 (catching up on the Covid restrictions of 2020). How did the change affect the 84 children CBCH now supported and sponsored? The 104 we had at the start of Covid had dwindled as some had left education to start looking for a job. (The KCT Trust has now agreed to add 10 more community children to increase this number). Children of 15, who in future would be at Junior Secondary School, stayed on at their Senior Secondary, which therefore had 4 age years of children for one more year. All our KCM supported children remained supported. The relative costs of these types of school (as used in our budget process) is complicated, and provided by Manase at CBCH.

Numbers being supported in 2024 by type of school were as follows, taking £1 = 165 KES, the average exchange rate we had in 2024:

- 1) Early learning Grades 1-5 [formerly Primary School], 9 pupils @ £77 each,
- 2) Early Learning Grade 6 [formerly Primary School], 5 pupils @ £84 each
- 3) Junior Secondary School (Grades 7 to 9), 23 pupils @ £337 each
- 4) We had no children in the old Secondary School system this year
- 5) Day Secondary School, ages 15 to 18, 3 pupils @ £545 each
- 6) Boarding Senior Secondary School [formerly Secondary School], 18 pupils @ £849 each
- 7) Vocational training [2 year certificate course], 10 pupils @ £758 each,
- 8) College/Tertiary training [3 year diploma course], 7 pupils @ £879 each
- 9) University [4 year degree course], 5 pupils @ £2,545 each.
- 10) In addition there were 10 pupils in a waiting period, as subsequent post-secondary training is advised by the government.

This is a breakdown of our 90 sponsored children to whom we are committed. Total cost of the above is £52,239.

Alternative Family Care (AFC)

During 2021 and 2022 the Kenyan Government took on board the UN-inspired Alternative Family Care programme, which required all children to live in the homes of their parents, relatives or other care-givers. This required all children living in Children's Homes to be sent back to whatsoever kin they had. To all involved orphans, single mothers and other impoverished relatives this could (and did) cause very real hardship; these children often had to return to an aged grandparent as their guardian, or find living space with uncles, cousins, etc. who could not easily accommodate, feed and support them along with their own family.

It caused many problems for our children in the Cherry Brierley Children's Home which at the time had 55 primary-aged children all attending the local Tieng're Primary School. Their opportunity to develop socially and spiritually was thus severely impaired, as well as the quality of care such as food and facilities (including electric light at night to do homework). Additionally, for 17 their change of location required a change of school. All those who were in CBCH have continued in our care, in their changed environment, especially with respect to education fees and associated expenses, and did so throughout 2024.

Some of our supporters felt the authorities should be approached because of the hardship suffered by many of the children affected by AFC, and at one stage it was hoped that a protest might be made to the Kenyan Government, from within Kenya itself, but in a meeting of Kenya's senior church leaders in April 2024 they supported "the phasing out of residential homes."¹ This means that it will be extremely unlikely that CBCH will be able to return to a fully residential home as it used to be, and new child-centred uses for the existing buildings have been and are being considered.

Social Worker

The appointment of a CBCH Social Worker was explained in last year's Report, and she has continued her exemplary work in 2024. In particular this has meant:

- 1) Facilitating the partnership between home, school, and the wider local community by support, liaison, activities and negotiation, and seeking successful resolutions when differences arise.
- 2) Encouraging the development of life skills across all areas of life with children and their relatives and families, and maintaining records of visits made and actions undertaken largely through regular meetings of care-givers when 20 to 30 care-givers decide to meet together for mutual support. Three such gatherings have been set up and (in 2025) one obtained local government certified approval, allowing them to open a bank account for their group savings.
- 3) Working with children supported by KCM and those who attend the Tieng're Comprehensive School (where Pamela teaches Scripture on a given syllabus every Friday morning) and the Dr Robert Ouko Comprehensive School which has a Catholic background.

While Pamela sends regular reports to the UK Trustees, who are welcome to make suggestions or ask questions about her work, her responsibility is to the local Kenyan authorities. She reports to the Kisumu West Children's Officer, a lady called Bilha, every fortnight to discuss cases, as well as to Rev Philemon Oguna, CBCH Manager. In particular in 2024:

- She has accessed limited emergency financial relief where such is essential for the maintenance of family life.
- She has helped, with the Manager, to organise and participated in two residential Bible Camps (as they are called), attended by an average of 130 to 150 children, mostly local, who are also taught some life skills as well as Christian teaching. Children are aged 6 to 18.
- She also helped, with the Manager, to organise some IT training, a three-week course for 8 teenagers, expenses covered by KCT, and undertaken by a qualified Kenyan official from Kisumu.
- She has a particular concern for disabled children, and supports and encourages their care-givers as much as she can, arranging for one such child (paralysed by meningitis) to spend time in CBCH to help his social awareness (which he loved).

While the CBCH staff miss very much working closely with 70 vulnerable residential children, they are now able to help a much wider needy group in the local community, feeding and counselling children, supporting and advising care-givers in a multitude of ways, and linking both child and care-giver readily with the appropriate local Kisumu West authority where available. Many testify to the value of the help they have received.

¹) *Church Times*, 3rd May 2024, Page 11. Bishop Johnes Ole Meliyio, Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church said "that homes providing support should be debated further."

Sponsorships

At the end of 2024 KCT was responsible for financing and supporting 90 children living in or near Kisumu, Kenya. Some have now moved from education into employment or the search for it, and are now no longer under our care, though we have kept in touch with as many as we can. .

This includes the further 10 very poor local community children which we added in 2024. What were the advantages for them? The main promise was financial – to promise to undertake paying for all their education as far as they were able to progress, including university and accommodation (and pocket money) if they reached that far. They were also given money for clothing and shoes, medical help if needed, opportunities for gathering together (for example, the Christmas Bible Camp also open to others and very popular), spiritual counsel, and advice and help in deciding upon a career with some assistance when searching for employment.

Many of these children also come for a free nutritious lunch every day. All 10 were affirmed as being in extreme poverty by the relevant authorities. The care-givers for many of these are those attending Pamela's Care-givers Groups.

KCT is very fortunate in having a number of people who kindly give money every month to cover the cost of sponsoring one (or more) of these children. We are happy to receive any amount according to what the donor can give, suggesting £20 or £25 monthly as a norm. In 2024 some were able to give but less than £20, while others could give more than £25, a few giving £100 or more

In addition others who are not sponsoring a child give regularly for general purposes to the work we undertake. Mostly this is also monthly, but a few give annually. The average amount given in 2024 by those giving monthly, sponsorship or general, was £32 per month.

Use of the CBCH buildings in Kisumu

The Children's Home still looks after a few children full-time who are recognised as requiring emergency accommodation by the Kisumu Children's Department, who are deemed to be "lost" or who have perhaps run-away from nearby Uganda. As mentioned above, CBCH facilities (which were repainted and given new paving in 2024) are also used for regular meetings like those for Family Relationships, Care-givers meetings and other groups.

The large dining room, which can accommodate 80-100 people with ease, is also used by the community from time to time. We aim to increase such activities to include having more residential events, so in 2025 we will have three residential Bible Camps which enables some of our older supported children living too far away for daily travel to come back for a week, further IT training events, and so on. The hall is also used for training people wanting to start micro-businesses and in other ways.

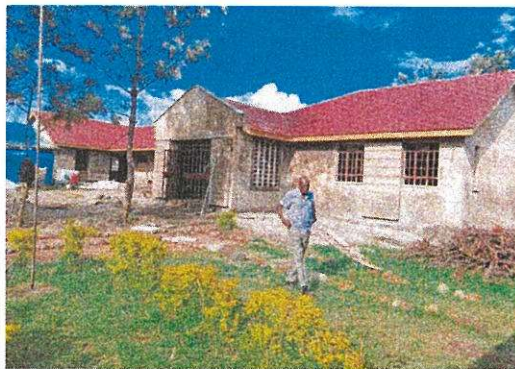
DROCS Classrooms

The Dr Robert Ouko Comprehensive School (DROCS) is about one mile to the east of CBCH. Before the present buildings of CBCH were erected in 2007, CBCH was located in a condemned building at the bottom of a field in the Korando District of Kisumu. In the field adjacent to ours stood the DROPS (as it then was, P = Primary) School which all our primary aged children (then 6 to 14) attended. When we moved in 2007, most moved school as well. So we have a history of working with DROPS and knew the former local headmaster, Gregory Ogony, very well.

Dr Robert Ouko was once the Foreign Minister of Kenya but was assassinated in February 1990. The original school was a line of classrooms with the headmaster's office at one end. In time further classrooms were added as pupil numbers increased, but no maintenance was undertaken of the original block. By 2022, it was in a very dangerous state, so that in April 2023 the local Kisumu Council officially demolished the classrooms, leaving just the Head's office at the end. Replacement classrooms were clearly needed; could CBCH help as they had when they built new classrooms for the Tieng're Comprehensive School? The same architect, George Otiendo, who had built the Tieng're

classrooms, was asked for a quote for the of building something similar for DROCS and quoted £70,200 (May 2022).

In the UK, funding was sought by the KCT Support Officer, Alan Hewerdine, and the Lewin Trust promised to provide half the estimated cost, so long as KCT took legal responsibility for providing the remaining costs, even if they exceeded half the amount quoted. By November 2023 the costs had increased, by 15%, but at the same time the exchange rate had fallen, so that despite this increase the actual cost in sterling terms was 10% cheaper at £63,000!



At their meeting on 2nd December 2023, the KCT Trustees agreed to fund the building of the three classrooms, which, as the photo shows, were large, well ventilated, with lights and a ceiling to mitigate the heating from the corrugated iron roofs.

Unknown to KCT a further meeting was held with the new Headmaster of DROCS, Mark Otieno, and some alterations to the design were made, concluding joining the building to an existing block of classrooms, costing an extra £7,000. We had legally agreed with the Lewin Trust to pay any extra costs of the building, but at the same time in early 2024 the exchange rate between the UK and Kenya varied very sharply, saving us £7,000 in the transmission of the necessary funds to Kenya. The Lewin Trust money was received by KCT all in 2024. The end result was that the total cost to KCT was £70,200, exactly as originally quoted! Two of our Trustees were unhappy with this, feeling we should not pay the extra cost, not appreciating we had signed a legal agreement to do so, and resigned.

The Headmaster, however, was delighted, as the extra money had enabled the architect to include an extra classroom to make 4 new classrooms rather than the original three + new administration block. The extra classroom, attached to a building already at the school, which made it rather dark, was instantly used as the classroom for teaching technology where the darkness allowed the screens to be more easily seen.

The conclusion of the building project was on 15th May 2024 when the new rooms were formally dedicated to the glory of God, and their actual use began a short while later.

Disabled Children

The origin of our work in this area was described in the 2023 Annual Report. It also describes the origin of the initial Survey Report, which showed the enormous need in Kisumu to help disabled (or differently-abled people, as Kenyans prefer to call them) people. The Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics had published a Report emanating from the results of the Kenyan 2019 Population Census which became available in 2024. Consequently a further analysis of this data was made early in 2024 and is available from KCT should it be required.

The Kenyan Government had asked their entire population if they had a disability, and, if so, whether it was (a) Visual, (b) Hearing, (c) Mobility, (d) Cognitive, (e) Communication or (f) Self-care. They then asked for the degree of disability for each of these that they might cause someone, dividing their answers into: (a) Not relevant to them, (b) Causes some difficulty, (c) Causes major difficulty and (d) Causes total disability. The Government Report broke this information down by gender, age and county (there are 51 in Kenya, of which Kisumu is one). The results showed that poor vision was the worst disability in Kenya and that Kisumu County was one of the top 6 with its occurrence.

Proportion of population in Kisumu children (5 to 18) with disability, by sex and level of disability

Disability Level	Sex	Visual %	Mobility %	Cognition %	Hearing %	Communication %	Self-care %	TOTAL %
Moderate	Boy	10	7	7	6	8	5	43
	Girl	9	5	5	6	5	4	34
Severe	Boy	1	2	2	1	3	4	13
	Girl	0	2	1	1	3	3	10
TOTAL		20	16	15	14	19	16	100

The Table shows that almost four-fifths, 77%, of Kisumu children have some kind of moderate disability, and of all children vision is the worst – a fifth of all, 20%. Communication was also a major problem, also a fifth of all children, 19%.

During the visit of some UK Trustees in 2024, the matter was taken for discussion with the Strategic Development Team of the Kisumu Council, who wanted more verification of the survey findings which has now been provided. The above Table was not part of the discussion as the National Statistics were not then analysed. This interaction needs to be continued and it is hoped it will be in the 2025 visit.

One result of the discussion was to ask the Council's professional physiotherapist, a helpful man called Isaac Otieno, for forward planning suggestions. He provided subsequently two proposals. One of these was to suggest that intensive physiotherapy should be provided for one very disabled child, Boaz, the brother of one of our supported children, unable to walk or talk as a result of meningitis, which was followed through and began in late 2024, with obvious improvement to the lad. It was completed in 2025, and would need more funds to continue.

Another result was a wider proposal of how the Kisumu Council could be asked about these concerns, and the needs could be followed through within the Council. These also required additional funding which the KCT Trustees felt unable to provide. It would also need to be modified in the light of the findings in the second Report published after the visit and after Isaac's second proposal was made.

One result of this analysis, however, took place in 2025 when all the 147 children at the April Bible Camp had their eyes tested, 50 requiring drops, and 12 needing glasses (+ 3 staff members)..

Micro-Business start-ups

One important development which began in 2022 has overflowed into later years. During her visit to Kisumu in May 2022, Suzanne Hodnett, then KCT's Media Officer, had several conversations with Jo-an Olachi, the newly elected Chair of the Kisumu Children Ministries Board, who agreed to lead a course over 5 weeks for those seriously interested in starting a small business. Suzanne provided some of the teaching material as she herself teaches this in the UK.

Seventeen people (15 women and two men) attended the first course at CBCH in January/February 2023; by its end, all had written a workable business plan with aims, objects, how the work would be organised, where located, cost of starting, finance needed, potential profits, etc. Three of these were chosen and funds were provided for buying initial stock and making a stand on which to sell it. In an assessment of progress in 2024, one had been brilliantly successful with by then a small working business which sold a multiple of different products and whose funds helped, she said, to pay for food and the education of her children, as well providing needed money for necessary dwelling maintenance. She recommended (in 2024) others doing what she had done! A second had started but not done so well, and third failed completely.

In 2024 five more potential micro-businesses from the list were chosen, and the necessary start-up funds sent. These had more mentoring than the first three, much of it by the Social Worker and the CBCH Operations Officer (Peter Nyidha who had agreed to take the lead of the mentoring group), Assistant Manager and some of the leaders of the Care-givers groups. In other words, more of the local community were wanting such businesses to be started and were willing to try and make them successful. The costs are relatively small – the cost of providing the initial funding for all 5 selected was just under £700. It was too early at the end of 2024 to know how successful these were but a report early in 2025 showed that all five had actually been started and mentoring was continuing. The assessment by the Assistant Manager, Manase, said it looked as if all would succeed, but the visit in 2025 will be needed to make a further assessment.

Whether there should be a further training course is under consideration, with those who had started a micro-business telling of their experience as part of the course.

A new kitchen for TICS

In one of the conversations with the Headmistress, Alice Aoko, of Tieng're Comprehensive School she drew attention to the problem the school had of providing lunch for many of their pupils, since most did not bring anything with them and none would be provided if they went home. The school had an open-air kitchen but no dining room. The actual cooking was especially difficult if it was raining. "Could a new kitchen be provided?" Alice asked.

The KCT Trustees felt they should not allow any funds for such a project other than that already received from KCT supporters for this purpose, which had been put in a dedicated Restricted Fund. However, the need for a new kitchen was included in the June monthly Prayer Letter which is produced and circulated to about 100 supporters who have requested it. One of them subsequently wrote and asked what the cost of a new kitchen might be. This was already known as the Architect, George Otieno, had been asked to assess it. In July 2024 the cost of a new kitchen and dining room was given as £45,400.

The (long-term) supporter who asked, "How much?" then said she would pay the entire bill, promptly sending a cheque for the amount given, with the request that the building be started immediately so that hopefully it could be finished before the next term started in September. The Treasurer put the money into the existing Restricted Fund and immediately sent the money to Kisumu so that the construction could begin. Two Trustees were against this action, feeling that the money should not have been sent out straight away, and so resigned. They had, however, in the interim, moved house some distance away and would not have been easily able to physically attend the Annual Meeting, and this was a factor in their decision.

The kitchen was, however, completed, almost on time (the dining room seating came later), and teachers and Head in the School were enormously grateful.

Generator

The Kisumu electricity supply is erratic, sometimes cutting out for a few minutes, other times much longer. In order to protect the new toilets at TICS, which require flushing every night with special pumps, a generator was installed in July 2024 to protect the need for electricity at times of emergency. The total cost of £2,500 was kindly met by a grant from the Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation covering both the generator and special housing for it. It should probably have been included with the construction of the new toilet system in 2022 but had been overlooked.

Administration in the UK

A number of factors have affected our work in 2024:

- We published four issues of *Kisumu News* for our supporters, compiled and produced by our Media Officer.

- We appointed a new part-time Media Officer early in the year, Philippa Haslett, who found she was unable to continue for medical reasons. The previous Media Officer Suzanne Hodnett had resigned in 2023 after being offered extra working hours in her main part-time job, Aneta Dabek was subsequently appointed in Philippa's place.
- Our Support Officer, Alan Hewerdine, who is paid for his work with KCT by Trust Financial Planning, joined us as a Trustee in April 2024.
- Two of our Trustees who were working businessmen both felt that the demands of their occupation left too little time for voluntary work with the Kisumu Children Trust, and both resigned.
- The KCT Trustees transferred the existing web and email servers to new hosting arrangements and specifically to use our non-profit status with Microsoft. They are looking at a webpage refresh but are still in the planning phase.
- The KCT maintains a presence on three social media platforms. As of 2024, its Facebook page had 1,550 followers, reflecting an increase of approximately 100 over the year. On X (formerly Twitter) the Trust had over 780 followers, while its Instagram account currently had 46 followers.
- In 2024, an article describing the Trust's activities was published in *Parish Pump*, a publication with a global reach of approximately 250,000 readers; another written for *Town and Crier*, a monthly bulletin for the local Tonbridge area, was included in the September issue, delivered to 28,000 homes.
- Trustee Michael Dare, one of the Leadership Team, and long-term support for the work of KCT (he was Executive Secretary 2002 to 2010) came to the end of his current term of office, and so retired. We gave him special thanks for his commitment, with his wife Kate, at the Annual Meeting in October 2024.
- Michael Dare was also our UK Liaison Officer between the UK and Kisumu leadership. His (Zoom) meetings with the Manager have now been replaced by what we call TEAM meetings between the CBCH Leadership Team and the UK Staff Team (+ Chair). In 2024 three such meetings were held, with the intention of continuing them at monthly intervals in 2025.
- While we had no Trustees' meeting without at least three Trustees present, as required by our Articles, we did look for further Trustees, and two have been appointed, one in December 2024, Jonathan Goodes who came in as Treasurer in place of Peter Brierley, and Graeme Shaw who actually joined in January 2025.
- A monthly *Prayer Letter*, written by ex-Trustee Cherry Brierley, was typed and circulated to about 100 supporters by our Administrator..
- A summary of our income and expenditure was made every month and distributed to all Trustees and Staff with commentary as needed by the Treasurer.
- A three-year budget was constructed, and discussed and agreed at the Trustees' meeting in November, prepared by the Treasurer..
- In 2023 the Lewin Trust very kindly promised a grant of half the cost of building the DROCS classrooms (at £35,000) which was actually received in two instalments in 2024.

Policies

Our list of agreed and adopted policies is as follows, many being reviewed in 2024:

- 1) Complaints and Procedures (10/18, 1/24);
- 2) Appointment of New Trustees (01/11, 10/18, 10/21, to be reviewed in 2026);
- 3) Employment policy (10/18, 1/24);
- 4) Data Breach (11/18, 1/24);
- 5) Purpose, Mission and Values (11/18, 1/24);
- 6) Emergency Reserves (11/18, 7/24);
- 7) Privacy (1/19, 7/24);
- 8) Grievance (7/19, 7/24);
- 9) Photography (11/19, 7/24);
- 10) IT and Data Rights KCT (02/20, 9/24);
- 11) Safeguarding and Child Protection, which includes a Visitor's Policy.(3/21, to be reviewed in 2026).

We have sent our sister charity in Kenya, Kisumu Children Ministries, copies of policies (10) and (11) written for their circumstances which they have adopted.

KCT Viability

Our discussions on KCT viability have meant greater attention given to our financial liabilities in the light of the programme of community support in which we are engaging, as well as continuing our support work with the 90 sponsored children, and in addition to extending help to more impoverished children in the community through our daily lunch programme. A key paper on long-term finance to this end was described in the 2020 Annual Report, which continued to be used in 2024.

We ended the year with a General Fund of £50,000 (£71,000 in 2023) outside our Restricted and Designated funds and Emergency Reserve. Some of this is being spent on further projects in 2025. The Trustees do not believe there should be any current uncertainty over the charity as a viable concern in God's hands.

Future prospects for 2025 and beyond will naturally include continuing the relationship with Tieng're and Dr Robert Ouko Comprehensive Schools and other local schools largely through the work of our CBCH Social Worker. Our expanding community involvement will continue in order to help children, physically, spiritually and educationally. Discussions on our CBCH Manager's future leadership and continued involvement with CBCH have already been undertaken (Philemon is willing to continue serving as Manager until he reaches retirement age in 2028).

Each KCT Trustee is expected to share the responsibility of ongoing regular funding of the charity which remains one of our key priorities, but also we wish to consider what the future may hold in a rapidly changing world-wide situation, and the implementation of the Kenyan Alternative Family Care programme. Our desire to help extremely poor, hungry and needy children in Kisumu has not lessened, and we trust God to lead us into increasingly effective paths of service to deprived poverty-stricken children in the Kisumu area.

Public Benefit

The review of activities above details the work of KCT in Kenya. In addition, assistance is given to the poorest families, and we have provided water, vegetables and meals to the community's children as required and as we are able. The active free lunch programme for the neediest children in our locality in Kisumu is welcomed by over 150 every day. The Trustees consider that they have complied with their public benefit requirements under the Charities Act of 2011. As described above we have continued our support of the large Tieng're Comprehensive School near the CBCH Home, and now also the Dr Robert Ouko Comprehensive School aiming specifically to help, over time, several hundred of their poorest pupils, alleviating their poverty and advancing their education.

Investment and Reserves Policy

The Trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds and surplus funds when available are invested on the best terms at the appropriate time.

It is the policy of the Trust to maximise fully the use of unrestricted and un-designated funds to help as many children as possible. Sufficient funds are held in the UK (£45,000 in 2024 as in 2023) as our emergency reserves in case of major shortfall in income, unexpected death or incapacity of major personnel in the UK or Kenya, or other untoward circumstance; the Emergency Reserves Policy was re-written and updated in 2024 and is reviewed regularly. However, it is recognised that extreme emergency situations may necessitate spending more than suggested in this policy.

Risk Management

The Trustees acknowledge the major risks which the charity faces, in particular the adverse economic and uncertain political factors within Kenya, the changing Kenyan Government concerns about children and their living conditions and future education as expressed in 2019, and outworked in 2021, 2022 and 2023 in particular, as well as the changing, decreasing, Christian situation in the UK. They consider that with regular Trustee meetings, Leadership Team meetings, and, when possible, essential Trustee visits to the Home, regular communications and reports received from Kenya, Trustees are well positioned to take the best possible steps both to mitigate against risk and respond to unforeseen matters that may arise.

The impact of the war in Ukraine since 2022 has seen a general rise in food prices in Kenya and the general cost of living, though it has greatly increased the hardship of impoverished families in the Kisumu area. The Kenyan political situation has not affected KCT greatly, apart from the general cost of caring for the education and the feeding of the many children under our care. We are no longer funding a fully residential home living with its associated costs. Some of the costs to KCT were also reduced in 2024 by an increasing rate of exchange between the Kenyan shilling and the UK pound.

Trustee Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts of financial activities in the period and in preparing these accounts they are required to:

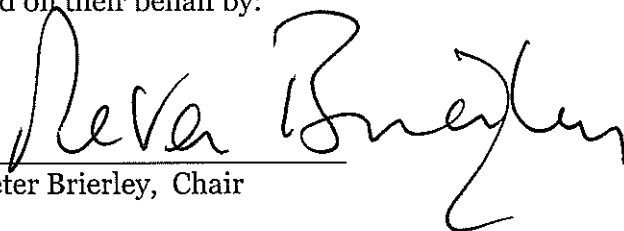
- Select accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the appropriate Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) on Accounting by Charities and with applicable Accounting Standards, subject to any material disclosures indicated and explained in the accounts, and
- Prepare the accounts as a going-concern unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to ensure that such accounts and records comply with applicable Accounting Standards, the Statements of Recommended Practice, the Regulations made under § 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the Trust Deed.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

This Report was approved by the Trustees at their meeting, by Zoom, on 23rd May 2025 and is signed on their behalf by:


 Dr Peter Brierley, Chair

[6,700 words]

KISUMU CHILDREN TRUST

**THE CHERRY BRIERLEY CHILDREN'S HOME,
KISUMU, KENYA**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1091477

Accounts 2024

for the year ending 31st December 2024

KISUMU CHILDREN TRUST***Reference and Administrative Information***

Address for Correspondence	Dr Peter Brierley, 1b, Thorpe Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 4PW
Registered Charity Number	1091477
Governing Document	Trust Deed dated 25 th February 2002, as amended by resolution dated 12 th March 2011, and as amended by resolution dated 19 th May 2018
Trustees	Dr Peter Brierley (Acting Chair and previous treasurer) Graham Collison (resigned 20 th June 2024) Michael Dare (retired 12 th October 2024) Eric Deeben (resigned 2 nd November 2024) Samara Earl (resigned 26 th February 2024) Ivo de Freitas (resigned 14 th September 2024) Kathryn de Freitas (resigned 14 th September 2024) Jonathan Goodes (from 19 th January 2025; present treasurer) Alan Hewerdine (from 20 th May 2024) Steve Roderick (Vice-Chair) Graeme Shaw (from 13 th January 2025) Tim Simpson (resigned 20 th November 2024)
Principal Banker	CAF Bank Ltd., 25, Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ
Patrons	Rt Rev Michael Hill, former Bishop of Bristol Mgr Michael Nazir-Ali, former Bishop of Rochester Ram Gidoomal, CBE, Entrepreneur and Businessman
Independent Examiner	Andrew Simmonds FCA
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KISUMU CHILDREN TRUST

***Independent Examiner's Report
for the Year ending 31st December 2024***

To the Trustees of the Kisumu Children Trust,

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on Pages 15 to 19.

Respective responsibilities for the Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under § 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011) (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under § 145 of the 2011 Act);
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under § 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with § 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Andrew Simmonds FCA, Independent Examiner

Date

10th Sept 2025

KISUMU CHILDREN TRUST

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year ending 31st December 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024£	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowment	1				
<i>From Donations and Legacies</i>					
Gifts, donations and projects	2,3	41,765	155,609	197,374	93,595
Sponsored gifts		20,738	0	20,738	23,745
Legacies		2,109	0	2,109	5,000
Total		64,612	155,609	220,221	122,340
<i>From Trading</i>		733	0	733	1,175
<i>From Investments</i>	1	3,969	0	3,969	5,718
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	A	69,314	155,609	224,923	129,233
Expended Resources	1				
<i>Support of projects in Kenya</i>	2, 3,12	81,391	139,408	220,799	118,244
<i>UK support costs</i>	4,6,9	16,322	0	16,322	14,507
Total		97,713	139,408	237,121	132,751
<i>Expenditure on generating Funds</i>	1,5	11,512	0	11,512	10,424
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	B	109,225	139,408	248,633	143,175
Net Incoming Resources	A-B	(39,911)	16,201	(23,710)	(13,942)
<i>Transfers between Funds</i>		(14,325)	0	(14,325)	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	C	(54,236)	16,201	(38,035)	(13,942)
<i>Funds, 31st December 2023</i>	D	144,607	54,062	198,669	212,611
FUNDS, 31st DECEMBER 2024	C+D	90,371	70,263	160,634	198,669

There have been no recognised gains or losses, other than the results of the financial year and all profits and losses have been accounted for on an historical cost basis.

The Notes on Pages 17 to 19 form part of these accounts.

KISUMU CHILDREN TRUST

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<i>Fixed Assets</i>	1,7	0	0
<i>Current Assets</i>			
Gift Aid tax recoverable		4,777	0
Prepayments and accrued income	8	(347)	0
Cash at bank and on deposit		156,204	198,669
Total		160,634	198,669
<i>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</i>		0	0
<i>Accruals</i>		0	0
Net Current Assets		160,634	198,669
TOTAL ASSETS	10,11	160,634	198,669
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>			
General Funds		39,807	71,454
Emergency Reserve		45,000	45,000
Designated Funds		5,564	28,153
Total		90,371	144,607
<i>Restricted Funds</i>		70,263	54,062
TOTAL FUNDS		160,634	198,669

Approved by the Trustees on 9th September 2025 signed on their behalf by:


 Jonathan Goodes, Treasurer

KISUMU CHILDREN TRUST

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024**1) Accounting Policies**

- a) The accounts have been prepared in sterling under the historical convention and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, the Charities Act 2011, and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities." The Trustees have considered the charity's day to day cash flow requirements and have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and financial statements.
- b) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when received. Donations arising under Gift Aid together with the tax recoverable thereon are accounted for when received and provision made for tax unclaimed at the year end.
- c) Expenditure is taken into account for the Accounting Year.
- d) Tangible fixed assets in Kisumu are registered in the name of the Kenyan charity. Fixed assets in the UK are depreciated over 3 years. Balances held in Kenya at the year end are not included in these accounts.
- e) Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets certain criteria is identified to the relevant fund. Designated funds are unrestricted funds allocated for specific purposes by the Trustees. Unrestricted funds are donations and all other income received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds. The Restricted and Designated funds are as follows:

2) Movement in Funds: Restricted Reserves

<i>Restricted Reserves</i>	Library books/ laptops	Health	Children's Secondary Education	Nutanix Technology Fund	JOG, Loans and Gifts	Boaz/ Disabled children	DROPS Classrooms	Emergency Food	TICS Generator Kitchen	Total
At 31/12/2023	£2,461	£927	£50,834	£2,923	£3,715	£2,729	(£14,270)	£4,743	£0	£54,062
Income	£0	£540	£20,000	£0	£4,904	£4,484	£75,205	£0	£50,476	£155,609
Expenditure	£242	£950	£23,942	£853	£11,508	£3,259	£43,806	£4,743	£50,105	£139,408
At 31/12/2024	£2,219	£517	£46,892	£2,070	(£2,889)	£3,954	£17,129	£0	£371	£70,263

Three new Restricted Funds were started this year – one for building classrooms for the Dr Robert Ouko Comprehensive School (DROCS); one for the Emergency Food programme whose residual funds were transferred to our General Fund as money for this purpose was being spent from this Fund, and one for providing a generator and building a new kitchen and dining room for the Tieng're Comprehensive School (TICS). Funds into and out of these funds are as shown.

3) Movement in Funds: Designated Reserves

<i>Designated Reserves</i>	Social Worker	Emergency Reserves	Total
As at 31/12/2023	£28,153	£45,000	£73,153
Income	£0	£0	£0
Expenditure	£22,589	£0	£22,589
As at 31/12/2024	£5,564	£45,000	£5,564

£20,000 was returned to the General Fund from which it had been mistakenly taken on 2021.

4) **UK Support Costs**

Item	2024 £	2023 £
Employment costs	13,104	11,648
UK governance and travel expenses	630	996
Child risk/safeguarding	163	145
Other costs and bank charges	2,425	1,718
Total	16,322	14,507

5) **Cost of Generating Funds**

Item	2024 £	2023 £
Employment costs	6,807	5,287
Promotion and publicity	4,705	5,137
Total	11,512	10,424

Employment costs relate to our Media Officer who began her work (6 hours a week) in early 2024 and our Support Officer who wrote to Grant Making Trusts in 2024, working for 4 hours a week. Our promotion and publicity costs of generating funds include small payments for the photos taken by a part-time photographer working for us in Kisumu.

6) **Staff and Trustees**

The charity had no part-time employees in January 2024 (none in 2023). Salary costs in the year thus were zero (2023 zero). Contract staff in 2024, included the Administrator and Bookkeeper, Support Officer (both for 12 months) and the Media Officers (for 11 months) who were collectively paid £27,487 (£24,931 in 2023 when we were temporarily without a Support Officer).

The Chair was re-imbursed £6 travel in the UK in 2024 (£152 in 2023). Trustee Michael Dare was paid £192 for travel in 2023 (£117 in 2023). No other travel expenses were paid to any of the Trustees in 2024. Travel costs were paid to self-employed staff of £183 in 2024 (£99 in 2023). Volunteers were paid £100 helping in administration (£80 in 2023). If meetings had not been held by Zoom, travel costs in 2024 would have been higher.

7) **Fixed Assets**

No tangible fixed assets were purchased in 2024, nor in the previous 4 years.

As at 31 st December	Cost/Brought forward	Depreciation during year	Net value end year
2023	£0	n/a	£0
2024	£0	n/a	£0

8) **Debtors and Prepayments**

December income paid in January £254. December expenses paid in January (£601).

9) **Governance costs**

The Independent Examiner is a volunteer.

10) ***Analysis of Net Assets between Funds***

Item	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0
Cash at bank and on deposit	85,941	70,263	156,204	198,669
Other net current assets	0	0	0	0
Total	85,941	70,263	156,204	198,669

- 11) At the balance sheet date, the Charity had no commitments under operating leases or any other contractual (other than employment) or constructive obligations.

12) ***Charitable Activities***

Item	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024£	Total 2023 £
School fees	53,162	23,922	76,084	61,357
Running costs of the Home	12,583	0	12,583	10,038
CBCH Salaries	16,448	0	16,448	12,458
Other direct costs	4,600	0	4,600	4,136
Monitoring visits	2,401	0	2,401	0
Property maintenance	3,290	0	3,290	927
Community Feeding Programme	18,069	0	18,969	13,356
Total	110,553	23,922	134,475	102,272

School fees were more this year because we had more children in Secondary School as the Kenyan Government instituted its education reform of making Primary education finish at 12 and Junior Secondary for those children aged 12 to 15 and Senior Secondary for those aged 16 to 18. It automatically meant those who would have been 13 or 14 in 2024 were now at Junior Secondary instead of Primary, and whereas Primary Education was free Secondary education incurred fees.

The running costs of the Home are more than last year because our Community Feeding Programme is run from the Home and included therefore in the Home costs. We increased the number served each day from 100 to 150 in 2024. Salaries are more than last year as we gave an increase in salary for the first time in five years.. Monitoring visits were re-started in 2024.