

FRIENDS OF BURUNDI

England & Wales · Charity number 1117715

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2007-01-29

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: 1) THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION BY SUPPORTING THE CHURCH IN BURUNDI IN ITS WITNESS TO GOD'S LOVE IN CHRIST AND BY ENCOURAGING MEMBERS AND YOUNG CHRISTIANS IN THE UK TO SUPPORT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND WORK IN BURUNDI.2) THE FURTHERANCE OF SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION DETERMINE, INCLUDING THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, RELIEF OF POVERTY AND RELIEF OF SICKNESS.

Activities: Provision of Information regarding Burundi and the church in Burundi, destined mainly for supporters in the UK Meetings relating to Burundi, the country, the population and the church and individuals working there. These meetings are mainly held in the UK. Donations towards relief, development and education in Burundi and support and development of the Christian church in Burundi.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BURUNDI
- Burundi
- Congo (Democratic Republic)
- Ireland
- Northern Ireland
- Rwanda
- Scotland
- Tanzania
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£171,602	£52,983	-	-
2024-09-30	£7,044	£21,821	-	-
2023-09-30	£26,639	£6,385	-	-
2022-09-30	£11,320	£17,233	-	-
2021-09-30	£10,112	£22,437	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev William George Challis	Chair	2005-11-19
ANDREW STRANG MACLAY		2005-11-19
Stephen Jack Stordy		2018-11-10
Susan Margaret Finlayson		2020-12-17

Accounts

Friends of Burundi Annual Report & Financial Statement
October 1st 2024- September 31st 2025
Registered Charity No. 1117715

General Introduction:

In 2025, Burundi's economy faced a challenging mix of high inflation—reported as high as 45% in early 2025—and severe shortages of foreign exchange, fuel, and electricity. The ongoing fuel shortage had a ripple effect across the Burundian economy contributing to inflation rates exceeding 25%, making it difficult for businesses to operate and worsening the financial strain on ordinary Burundians. Despite this crisis, GDP growth was projected to grow by 4.5% to 5.9%, driven by investments in mining, agriculture, and public infrastructure. However, with 87% of the population living on less than \$2 a day, the economy remains deeply vulnerable, relying on coffee and tea exports.

With the declining value of the Burundi Franc, the grants which Friends of Burundi has been able to provide have been greatly appreciated by our partners. Due primarily to a generous legacy and memorial gifts, funding available for supporting our partners in Burundi increased considerably from £7,044 in 2023/24 to £171,603 in 2024/25. The good causes funded are listed in the financial statement and include support for: i) health projects (medications) ii) micro-enterprise development, iii) pastors' retreats, iv) theological education and training of Sunday School teachers, v) church roofing vi) support for the Burundi Missionary Alliance. A grant of £5,000 was given to each of the nine dioceses in Burundi for mission work. A report summarising the use of these mission grants was circulated to Friends of Burundi members

The large legacy donated by Miss Margaret Court, former missionary and General Secretary of Mid-Africa Ministry/CMS, is being primarily spent on strengthening diocesan bible schools and theological education in Anglican Province of Burundi. This is being done in partnership with other donors in particular: Anglican Aid, The Relay Trust and Love Burundi. Plans for the future of theological education include the proposed transfer of the theology faculty of Bujumbura Christian University from Bujumbura to Matana. This move will require the rehabilitation of existing buildings and the construction of new facilities.

Communication between trustees has been improved with the funding of Starlink internet access for FoB trustee, Bishop Jean Mweningoma. The cost of Starlink is being shared with Keppleway UK which support the work of the Bethesda Project in Musinga diocese.

On a sad note, one of the founding members of Friends of Burundi, the Reverend Pat Brooks, died in 2025, aged 98. Many members attended the service in Rustington on 20th May to thank God for his life and dedication to the church in Burundi.

Governance

The trustees are William Challis (Chair), Andrew Maclay (Treasurer), Stephen Stordy (Secretary) Sue Finlayson (Communications) and The Rt. Reverend Jean Mweningoma (Bishop of Musinga diocese).

The Advisory Group (formerly called the Friends of Burundi Committee)

Members were invited to comment on the Good Cause applications for 2024/25.

Meetings of the Trustees

The trustees met via Zoom on 5th November 2024 to decide the allocation of funding for 2024/25.

The 2025 Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held via Zoom on Monday 10th February 2025 with 23 members attending.

At the meeting members the trustees and members of the Advisory Group were elected. The 2024/25 Annual Report and Financial Statement was approved. A brief report was presented by Bishop Pontien, who has responsibility for overseeing theological training in the Anglican Province of Burundi. Other members sharing news from Burundi included Bridget Hathaway, Alison Guinness, Michael Hunter, Bob Birch and Steve McGoldrick

Good Cause Grants were awarded in 2024/25 totalling £7,935 and **Mission** grants to diocese totalling £45,000. Only £47 was spent on administration costs.

Patrons

The Patrons are Jane Williams & Archbishop Sixbert Macumi

General Data Protection Regulations

We comply with the General Data Protection Regulations

Safeguarding Policy

At the instigation of the Charity Commission, a policy, based on the Church of England Safeguarding guidelines, has been produced and is reviewed and approved annually.

Annual Financial Report for the year ended September 2025

Friends of Burundi Annual financial report for the year ended 30 September 2025

I am pleased to present to you the accounts of Friends of Burundi for the year ended 30 September 2025.

We received £3,615 (2024 - £4,785) in membership subscriptions and donations in the year. We also received a generous legacy of £157,844 and other legacy and memorial gifts of £9,138. We made grants of £52,935. The Trustees have allocated £54,000 in gifts to support Bible Schools in the nine Anglican dioceses in Burundi. The Trustees are discussing further transfers for theological education and clergy training in Burundi, in conjunction with other donors.

The accounts are prepared on a Cash basis.

	year ended 30 September 2025
Income	
Membership subscriptions and donations	3,615.00
Memorials and legacies	166,982.02
Designated gifts	435.60
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	569.97
Total Income	171,602.59
Expenditure	
Grants	1,435.60
Burundi Missionary Alliance	5,000.00
Bujumbura diocese - Mission	5,000.00
Buye diocese - Mission	5,000.00
Matana diocese - Mission	5,000.00
Makamba diocese - Mission	5,000.00
Rutana diocese - Mission	5,000.00
Buhiga diocese - Mission	5,000.00
Rumonge diocese - Mission	5,000.00
Gitega diocese - Mission	5,000.00
Muyinga diocese - Mission	500.00
Buye diocese - Bible School, pastors training	565.00
Kayanza Baptist Church - training Sunday School teachers	685.00
Microenterprise for African Development MEFADA	650.00
Bujumbura diocese - pastors retreat	650.00
Rumonge diocese - Bitare health clinic	650.00
Buhiga diocese - pastors retreat	650.00
Gitega diocese - iron sheets for roofing churches	650.00
Makamba diocese - building church in Mukungu	650.00
Muyinga diocese - training of catechists	750.00
Rutana diocese - construction of dormitory for Bible College	750.00
Expenditure	47.00
Information Commissioner subscription	52,982.60
Total expenditure	118,619.99
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	118,619.99
Balance Sheet	
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	118,619.99
Lloyds' balance at beginning of year	7,125.42
Funds available	125,745.41
Lloyds' Balance available for general funds at 30 September 2025	125,745.41
Funds available	125,745.41

A.S. Naby
Andrew Maclay
Treasurer, Trustee
Date 1/3/2026

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends of Burundi

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of Burundi for the year ended 30 September 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Friends of Burundi, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of Friends of Burundi's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Friends of Burundi as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

Name:

Address:

Andrew Burton 1/3/26
ANDREW BURTON
22 CLIFTON ROAD
AMERSHAM, BUCKS, HP6 5PU

FRIENDS OF BURUNDI

England & Wales - Charity number 1117715

Accounts

**Friends of Burundi Annual Report & Financial Statement October 1st
2022- September 31st 2023**
Registered Charity No. 1117715

General Introduction: On 20th January 2023, the family and friends of Hugh James met for a service of thanksgiving and celebration of his life. Friends of Burundi is so grateful for Hugh's work as Honorary Secretary since the start of the charity in 2006 until his retirement from this role in January 2021.

Friends of Burundi has continued to support the church in Burundi in prayer and financial support. Our Communication Secretary, Sue Finlayson, has produced and shared with members a regular 'News and Prayer Points' with other emails sent requesting prayer for special needs. Burundi has continued to face considerable economic challenges following COVID and the invasion of Ukraine. Inflation more than doubled from 8.4% in 2021 to 18.7% in 2022. The shortage of foreign currency has led to frequent fuel shortages and the depreciation of the currency. Burundi remains one of the world's most impoverished countries, with 87 percent of the population living below the World Bank's poverty measure of \$1.90 per day, 80-90 percent of the population reliant on agriculture (mostly subsistence farming) and a youth unemployment rate of about 65 percent.

Small grants for 'Good Causes' totalling £6,965 were sent to partners in Burundi. Some of the work supported has included relief support for flood victims, the training of pastors and pastors' retreats, church building and help for those living with disabilities, musical instruments and scholarships for Batwa children. Additional designated grants (amounting to £3,276) which comply with the aims of the charity, were also transferred to Burundi. All overheads and administration costs have been kept to an absolute minimum (£35).

One of the charity's trustees, Andrew Maclay (Treasurer) was able to visit some of the church partners in Bujumbura, Burundi following Rooted in Jesus training courses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Bethesda project, supported by Friends of Burundi and ministering to the disabled in Muyinga diocese, continues to grow under the leadership of Fiacre following a visit by Bridget Hathaway (Friends of Burundi Member) and Gill Stern in March 2023.

Our Advisory Group member, Alison Guinness with her husband Paul and young family continue their work with Burundian colleagues and regional partners to encourage the mobilisation and training for cross-cultural mission of the Burundian church. This mission work is also supported by Stephen and Catherine McGoldrick and their colleague, Aloys, in the work of Acts 13 as well as Philip and Elspeth Adeney.

Michael Hunter, member of Friends of Burundi, has continued his teaching at Bujumbura Christian University. Friends of Burundi member, Sally Botteley, supports the work of REMA Burundi, which has a particular ministry to assist returnees and forced displaced people in Burundi.

Governance

The trustees remain as William Challis (Chair), Hugh James (until his death on December 31st 2022), Andrew Maclay (Treasurer), Stephen Stordy (Secretary) and Sue Finlayson (Communications)

The Advisory Group (formerly called the Friends of Burundi Committee)

The Annual Meeting took place via Zoom on 29th December 2022. Members were invited to comment on the Good Cause applications for 2022/23 and news was shared on the current situation in Burundi.

Meetings of the Trustees

The trustees met via Zoom on 6th December 2022 to decide the allocation of funding for 2022/23.

The 2023 Annual General Meeting

The delayed 2022 AGM was held via Zoom on Monday 23rd January 2023 with 23 members attending.

At the meeting members the trustees and members of the Advisory Group were elected. The 2021/22 Annual Report and Financial Statement was approved. Presentations on work in Burundi were given by:

- a) **Steve McGoldrick and Aloys Nduwindavyi** reported in their work in Acts 13 which is reaching out to the church in Africa to send mission partners cross-culturally to other countries in Africa.
- b) **Other news was work in Burundi** was shared by Alison Guinness; in particular, on the Burundi Mission Alliance. Sally Botteley reported on the work of REMA Burundi, Rob Burch and Bridget Hathaway on the work of the Bethesda project, Georgette Butera on Herridge School and Michael Hunter on Bujumbura Christian University.
- c) **Good Cause Grants** were awarded in 2022/23 totalling £6,965. In addition, Friends of Burundi assisted with the transfer of designated gifts totalling £3,276.

Patrons

The Patrons are Jane Williams & Archbishop Sixbert Macumi

General Data Protection Regulations

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Safeguarding Policy

At the instigation of the Charity Commission, a policy, based on the Church of England Safeguarding guidelines, has been produced and is reviewed and approved annually.

Communication with Members

Communication with members is maintained by a quarterly news and prayer update with occasional interim emails with additional news and items for prayer. Friends of Burundi members, who attended the Church Mission Society Africa Conference in Swanwick from 7-9th October 2022 were able to hear reports from members on visits to Burundi

Friends of Burundi

DRAFT Annual financial report for the year ended 30 September 2023

I am pleased to present to you the accounts of Friends of Burundi for the year ended 30 September 2023. We received £5,650 in membership subscriptions and donations in the year, from approximately 37 different supporters. We also received £16,086.65 in relation to the death of a supporter.

	year ended 30 September	
Income	2023	2022
	£	£
Membership subscriptions and donations	5,325.00	5,150.00
Designated gifts	3,076.25	5,200.00
Memorials and legacies	16,086.65	
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	1,846.37	970.33
Total income	26,334.27	11,320.33
Expenditure		
Grants		
Bujumbura diocese - flood assistance	1,000.00	
Bujumbura diocese - Widows Healing workshop		1,000.00
Bujumbura diocese - pastors retreat	750.00	
Muyinga diocese - Bible school training	750.00	
Muyinga diocese - training of church ministers		716.67
Muyinga diocese - Bethesda project	700.00	511.91
Matana diocese - building project		700.00
Gitega diocese - pastors refresher course -		1,000.00
Gitega diocese - roofing sheets for Kabanga parish church	750.00	
Buye diocese - Bible School	750.00	716.67
Rutana diocese - pastors training		700.00
Rutana diocese - Equipping of Bible school	750.00	
Buhiga diocese - training of catechists	750.00	1,023.81
AFREM Mwaro - scholarships for Batwa students	300.00	
Herridge Technical school	500.00	
REMA UK		500.00
Food for the Hungry		500.00
Five Talents		2,000.00
Alpha Burundi		500.00
YADA Christmas party and food relief		511.91
AVC Evangelism and Sewing project		511.91
All Nations Christian College - En Route		1,200.00
Designated gifts		
Mattresses for Buye lycee	3,076.00	
Bishop of Buhiga	200.00	
Mutanga Nord church, Bujumbura – children's support		1,000.00
Jean-Claude Ngiyimbere		2,000.00

Rutana Pension house		2,000.00
Expenditure		
Information Commissioner subscription	35.00	35.00
Bank/Western Union charges		105.00
Total expenditure	10,276.00	17,232.88
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	16,058.27	(5,912.55)
Balance Sheet		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	16,058.27	(5,912.55)
Lloyds balance at beginning of year	5,879.07	11,791.62
Funds available	21,937.34	5,879.07
Lloyds balance available for general funds at 30 September	21,902.34	5,879.07
Funds available	21,902.34	5,879.07

Andrew Maclay,
Treasurer Trustee