

**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

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.

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