

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 Mwenigoma. 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 Mwenigoma (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	750.00
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	52,982.60
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:

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