

# FRIENDS OF MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDRENS HOME

England & Wales · Charity number 1120944

## Details

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**Other names** THE FRIENDS OF THE MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDRENS HOME

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2007-09-21

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

## Contact

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**Address** 3 Badgers Green  
Kingsbridge  
Devon  
TQ7 1UE

**Phone** 07906597084

**Email** [treasurer@friendsofmatthewrusike.org](mailto:treasurer@friendsofmatthewrusike.org)

**Website** [www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org](http://www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO RELIEVE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AND TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN BY SUPPORTING THE MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDREN'S HOME IN ZIMBABWE AND TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHO ARE SUFFERING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP.

**Activities:** To relieve financial hardship and to advance the education of children by supporting the Matthew Rusike Children's Home in Zimbabwe

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED. IN PRACTICE, NATIONAL AND OVERSEAS
- Zimbabwe
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£96,087	£48,714	-	-
2023-12-31	£57,256	£52,891	-	-
2022-12-31	£38,422	£35,126	-	-
2021-12-31	£29,941	£27,016	-	-
2020-12-31	£41,292	£29,878	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Rev EDWARD CHARLES PATRICK STANDHAFT</b>	Chair	2015-04-01
Annah Mwadiwa		2026-01-01
CAROL ANNE BANHAM		
DONALD JOHN BANHAM		
David Graaff		2015-04-19
Deborah Jane Berrill		2024-07-06
MICHAEL MAPAKO		
Nicola Louise Phillips		2022-03-05
Rev Audrey Lesley Standhaft		2015-04-01
Wayne Cooper		2015-04-19

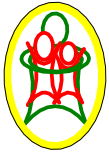
**FRIENDS OF MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDRENS HOME**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120944

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# Accounts

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## FRIENDS OF MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDREN'S HOME



Charity Number 1120944

### FoMRCH annual report 2023

The poor economic situation in Zimbabwe continued throughout 2023 causing the Children's Home much financial difficulty. The pandemic situation was easing by the end of 2022 and 24 children were able to spend Christmas with foster families for the first time since 2019. There were various safeguarding reasons for the other children being unable to go away. The Christmas party did go ahead in spite of a breakdown of electricity, cake was eaten, there was singing and dancing to their marimba band and various activities were arranged for the many children who had stayed at the home for the holidays. One boy had driving lessons and received a class 2 driver's licence.

The 2 grade 7 children did fairly well in their exams and were enrolled into the Matthew Rusike secondary school. The two A level students scored well in their results and the girl was lucky enough to get sponsorship to attend university. Out of 7 children who took O level exams, 2 did well and one had sponsorship to do A level the other found sponsorship later in the year.

In June we heard about plans for starting up an elementary school for 6-12 year olds at the Home. They already cater for preschool and secondary. There is a lot of disruption in education with teachers striking or leaving the country and schools closing. Education for the MRCH children was greatly restricted during the pandemic as they didn't have the technology needed to work online and all still need remedial help to catch up. The MRCH board felt that to protect the children from this situation they would involve local supporters and the diaspora to raise funds for new buildings. Meanwhile a room was set up in the preschool, a teacher hired and 10 grade 1 children were enrolled in January 2024. Some of these were fee paying local children others are MRCH residents.

A Methodist Church in Solihull has said they will fundraise to build a new classroom.

In July we heard that the diabetic child who had been at MRCH since she was 5 in 2011 had died. She was buried near her mother 100k away.

During the year another long term house mother retired after 27 years. These events always affect the children but once again a loyal employee retired still owed US\$6000 in salary arrears and no pension.

The regular fundraising events held at the Home (The Big Sunday open day, the marathon and the business dinner dance) have not been raising as much money as in the past due to smaller attendances and the economic crisis in Zimbabwe. Even the gifts in kind are substantially lower causing the Home to have to buy in more food stuffs.

The hyperinflation situation became very serious and was becoming a repeat of 2008/2009. The country still uses the Zim\$ but most goods are sold in US\$. Prices change daily. Staff salaries were unpaid for 5 months. The management plans more fund raising drives to rectify this but the government only pays a grant for 66 children, children in care without official court orders are not supported by a government grant. Local Methodist Circuits and Districts now fund the Outreach programmes at Donga and Mzinyathi, MRCH only funds staff salaries at the residential site at Epworth.

200 chickens were lost to a virus during the year, the piggeries needed new sows and feed and the greenhouses produced good crop of tomatoes.

Towards the end of the year it was beginning to be a concern that the rains were failing again and since the new year the government officially declared Zimbabwe is in a drought situation and desperately needed food imports. This was also affecting the Home.

Thanks to receiving in excess of £25,000 from gift aid donations from 2018-2021 we were able to donate the total cost of installing solar energy to the rural outreach project at Donga (US\$3,972, around £3,500). This non-residential centre supports over 50 children and their vulnerable families in the local rural area but has no electricity and only hand pumps water for personal use and irrigation. Solar will give them light, refrigeration, energy to pump the water, charge their phones and laptop and will transform their lives. We have also been able to donate the cost of installing solar power to the houses (US\$14,047, around £12,250). We were told that the Home was 'bubbling with joy' following the solarisation of all the children's houses and the staff houses occupied by the Chaplain, Social Worker, Health Sister, the Finance and Admin officer and the National Director's house.

We were also able to send some money towards deepening the borehole at Donga but sadly no water was found.

An anonymous donor sent £645 to be spent on Zimbabwean books for the children.

An unexpected donation of £5000 was used to provide Christmas for the children and Christmas bonuses for all the staff (not replacing the unpaid salaries)

The generator is rarely used now because of the high cost of fuel but they save its use for emergencies only.

There was some concern during the year that the MRCH Board had decided to use our name, Friends of Matthew Rusike children's Home (FoMRCH) to raise funds for the new elementary classrooms. They had drawn up letters to send to their local supporters and the Methodist Fellowships around the world and asked us to send out the one they had written for the Friends of MRCH. After urgent discussion in the committee the Home was contacted. It was made clear that the name FoMRCH could not be used in the UK and that if used elsewhere it would be extremely confusing for potential supporters and it would illegally go against our constitution. When their board met they agreed to change their name to MRCH Associates and that we, as a separate charity, would not be involved.

A former MRCH child has gathered together a group of former MRCH children to develop an alumni and we are publicising this in our newsletters. They realise that young people still need support after they leave care. Already they have paid for the funeral of the child of a single parent who was struggling after leaving care a few years ago.

We arranged 2 online meetings with the National Director, Board Chairman and any staff of the Methodist Church. Each time we sent the management team a list of topics we wanted further information on and most of our queries were successfully answered.

As usual, the officers and 3 members of our committee stood down at the AGM and were then re-elected as no one else had come forward. A member of the committee volunteered to become secretary and our loyal secretary Michael Mapako was able to step back and stay on as a trustee. The chair, Carol Banham, announced she would be retiring at the 2024 AGM and request for her replacement was included in each subsequent newsletter.

Life at MRCH can be extremely difficult but in spite of all the economic hardships including low incomes, unpaid salaries and high prices, unpredictable weather and ever changing government policies, the staff remain committed to offering support, love and care for the children. We are very grateful to all our supporters who have stayed with us and have started to organise fundraising events again and sometimes send generous donations.

Carol Banham  
Chair FoMRCH  
May 2024

**FRIENDS OF MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDREN'S HOME**

Charity Registered Number: 1120944

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01/01/2023 To 31/12/2023

**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £	Notes
<b>Receipts</b>					
Membership Subscriptions	760	-	760	850	
Donations	39,103	1,195	40,298	23,722	1
Student sponsorship	-	-	-	470	
Special appeal donations	-	-	-	-	
Fundraiser events	1,662	-	1,662	2,142	2
Gift Aid	14,148	118	14,265	10,963	
Interest	271	-	271	205	
Sundry Income	-	-	-	70	
<b>Total Receipts</b> <i>(Gross income for Annual Return)</i>	<b>55,944</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>57,256</b>	<b>38,422</b>	
<b>Payments</b>					
Remittances to MRCH	51,138	1,395	52,533	34,473	
Bank charges	90	-	90	119	
Other expenditure (incl printing and postage)	268	-	268	534	
Exchange difference	28	(28)	-	-	
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>51,524</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>52,891</b>	<b>35,126</b>	
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>4,420</b>	<b>(55)</b>	<b>4,365</b>	<b>3,296</b>	
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	
Cash funds last year end	21,049	55	21,104	17,808	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>25,469</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,469</b>	<b>21,104</b>	

**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

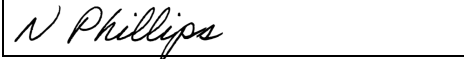


		Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £
<b>Cash and cash equivalent funds</b>	CoOperative bank current account cleared funds	2,873	-
	CoOperative bank savings account cleared funds	22,596	-
	Cheques received Dec not cleared in bank	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>25,469</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

**Note 1**

Restricted donations received in the year included amounts donated for the piggery project and for picture text books

**Note 2**

Fundraiser events included supporter led fundraising events and various church events

	Signature	Print Name
Signed by one trustee on behalf of all the trustees		Mrs Nicola Phillips BSc ACA BFP - Treasurer
Signed by Independent Examiner		

## **FRIENDS OF MATHEW RUSIKE CHILDREN'S HOME INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

for Year Ended 31 December 2023.

Charity number 1120944

### **TRUSTEES**

- 1 Donald John Banham Trustee
- 2 Mrs. Carol Anne Banham Chair
- 3 Immanuel Mudzingo Trustee
- 4 Michael Mapako Trustee
- 5 David Lawson Graaff Trustee
- 6 Wayne Ronald Cooper Trustee
- 7 Rev. Edward Charles Patrick Standhaft Trustee
- 8 Rev. Audrey Lesley Standhaft Trustee
- 9 Nicola Louise Phillips Trustee

### **Bank accounts**

Bank Account type	Account number	Sort code
Coop Bank Current	65859309	089299
Coop Bank Savings	67289330	089299

I have conducted an independent examination of the Friends of Mathew Rusike accounts covering the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

The purpose of this inspection was to ensure that the laid down accounting procedures and internal controls are operating as effectively and are compliant with the Charities Act (2011) standard operating and reporting procedures.

The responsibility for preparing the final accounts for the charity remains with the Trustees of the Charity. Based on the income and receipts threshold set out in the Charities Act, the Trustees of the Charity have determined that a full audit of accounts is not required but that an independent examination will suffice. I have conducted the independent examination by:

- Inspecting the Treasurer's accounts recorded on Excel spreadsheet.
- Following a sample of funds deposited into the bank account.
- Examining whether payments made were properly authorised and supporting invoices and receipts were being kept.

## Findings and recommendations

The main points arising from this independent examination are as follows:

### Bank Accounts:

The charity now operates two bank accounts with the Coop bank.

### Treasurer's record book:

All receipts and payments have been recorded correctly by the Treasurer.

Receipts: The Treasurer does not hold a receipt book. No cash payments were received by the Treasurer during this period. Receipts into the charity account are made through cheque deposits and direct debits from members and supporters' accounts.

Payments. Remittances were made to Mathew Rusike Children's Home in Zimbabwe. The total annual amount remitted was £53,533 (sterling equivalent). Acknowledgements of remitted funds by the recipient, Mathew Rusike Children's Home Zimbabwe were submitted to the independent examiner. Payments are being recorded and authorised correctly.



Katharine Culley (CTA) 7 Ford, Dartmouth, Devon Email : [kate.culley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kate.culley@hotmail.co.uk)

19 May 2024

**FRIENDS OF MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDRENS HOME**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120944

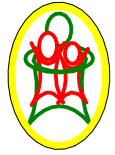
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# Accounts

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# FRIENDS OF MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDREN'S HOME

Charity Number 1120944



## FoMRCH annual report 2022

The poor economic situation and the effects of the pandemic in Zimbabwe continued throughout 2022 causing the Children's Home much financial difficulty. The first 2 months of the year saw Zimbabwe back in lockdown and schools were closed. Both the National Director and his PA were away from work for a few months with ill health. Thankfully all the children were in good health, the diabetic girl was receiving counselling to help her manage her diet and the epileptic girl hadn't had a seizure for 5 months, which was encouraging.

4 Children who should have taken O level exams in November had to finish them in January due to earlier lockdown. When results came through 2 had done well enough to go on to study A level, these students had each received sponsorship from a local family and a UK family.

2 boys attending university are doing well - one studying Forensic Accounting at University of Zimbabwe, the other Social Work at Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University. The Home is struggling to support one in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year at university and they fund raise for him each term.

7 children took grade 7 exams but 6 results were disappointing. One girl achieved 16 units which is the highest possible result. All 7 are attending form 1 at Matthew Rusike College.

When schools opened education continued to be disrupted due to teacher's striking for more pay. All MRCH children need remedial support if they are to manage the new curriculum which is so demanding. Technological devices are needed to do much of the work online and these are not available for each child.

At the moment the Government is not prioritising education as needing attention. Teachers are still paid a very low wage, if they are paid at all, and so many are leaving the profession and even the country to find work elsewhere.

There is selective learning where teachers charge as much as US\$5 per week for primary or US\$10 per subject per month for each child. This isn't legal practice and MRCH can't afford these fees anyway. So MRCH came up with "Educational Expo" in which they invited voluntary teachers to assist children through coaching clinics from Early Childhood Education, infants, juniors and those in secondary school. The response was overwhelming, 18 voluntary teachers came from the church, surrounding schools and from Seke Teachers' College. The tag was "Donate your time and talent to educate a child at MRCH". The purpose of the event was to assess, assist, inspire and improve the academic performance of children at MRCH. There were 2 sessions, one for staff, mainly the Caregivers and a session for children. A senior Lecturer from Seke Teachers' College, Epworth Primary School Headmaster and two retired school Administrators gave staff training on: 1. Assisting children at home in their academic work in the light of the new curriculum; 2. The role of the Caregiver and teacher in improving academic performance of the child and 3. Parent /teacher relationship.

The engagement was exciting and very fruitful. Caregivers were enlightened, motivated and received very useful tips. The children enjoyed the close attention given to them and were assisted in their learning gaps. MRCH intends to come up with more similar arrangements.

In March MRCH was visited by a Zimbabwean children's author Priscilla Musoki who presented 30 books for their library. She also tells African folklore stories on You tube.

Staff held a workshop for 33 MRCH coordinators from Harare East and West and Marondera District. These volunteers play a crucial role of mobilizing material resources from local Methodist communities. These would be basic foods such as maize meal and cooking oil, stationery for school children and children's clothing.

The children are involved in a rabbit rearing project to boost protein intake. They now take care of 34 rabbits and mend their cages under minimum supervision. These projects help the children to develop self-help skills and prepare them for the life after MRCH.

At Donga, the rural Outreach centre supporting about 80 vulnerable families within 15k radius, one of the sows produced 8 piglets so the sties are filling up. The 3 areas under the Government *Pfumvudza* programme were doing well until the maize was affected by drought. The centre still doesn't have electricity and only limited water supplied by a borehole shared with local families. Life is very hard in this quite remote rural area.

Over the year MRCH continued to hold their usual fundraising events and they were specifically aiming to raise US\$30,000 to install solar panels for all the buildings and the house and borehole at Donga. Electricity has continued to be erratic or non-existent. The panels would cover lighting and refrigeration but not cooking facilities.

Their marathon raised US\$5,000, the MRCH Big Day was disappointing in both donated goods and financial donations, the business dinner raised less than usual but gave more publicity to the Home.

The generosity of local businesses and individuals enabled a summer of events for some of the children. There was a trip to Kariba with generous costs cut for accommodation, local visits and a boat trip. This must have been very good experience for the children and staff. There were visits of children from Methodist schools so MRCH children could mix with peers from the community. Older MRCH children visited Moleli and Sandringham High schools for Christian Union events.

The MRCH finance officer was very helpful with the updating of the Home's information on our website such as the costs of running MRCH, including the problem of staff salaries being paid in Zimbabwe \$ which must be converted to US\$ on the parallel market at great loss to the staff.

Fundraising by the Friends of MRCH is still low and we rely more on standing orders and ad hoc donations when we appeal in the newsletters to maintain the bimonthly remittance of £4500. Donations specifically sent for supporting education were forwarded to the Home. The switch to electronic Christmas cards is slowly improving and more people are beginning to use online shopping donating such as PayPal, Amazon Smile, Stewardship and Give as you Live.

The switch from HSBC to our new account with the COOP bank had been problematic for several of our regular supporters but these problems were solved by spring.

The changeover of treasurer continued through the early months and was eventually completed by early spring. Niki Phillips did a lot of work claiming past Gift Aid and by the end of the year Gift Aid claims submitted for 2018 (in full), 2019 (incomplete) and 2020 (partial), gave us a total income of £11,168 including some interest so it was decided to send a one off extra Christmas donation of £1000 and consider putting money towards the solarisation project particularly a set for Donga. These plans continued into 2023.

Long term UK supporters, The Gibbs Trust, had contacted us for information about the long-term sustainability of the Children's home. They had been satisfied with information given and agreed to continue supporting MRCH.

Our two intrepid adventurers on the committee once again did a sponsored drive, this time from John O'Groats to Land's End in a 91 year old Ford They had a few mechanical problems on the journey but had a good time anyway, raising £1000 for MRCH.

As usual, the officers and 3 members of our committee stood down at the AGM and were then re-elected as no one else had come forward. A replacement minute secretary wasn't found so Michael Mapako agreed to continue on a temporary basis yet again until someone comes forward. We are very grateful to him for staying in post.

We arranged 2 online meetings with the National Director, Board Chairman and any staff of the Methodist Church. Each time we sent a list of topics we wanted updates for.

1. Sponsorship for A level students was clarified and updated with only one student still needing support. This was settled locally by some Z Methodist churches getting together.
2. The new Welfare Officer (Social Worker) had updated all the children's records to new government standard and a few children were having age assessment because there were no birth certificates.
3. 29 children had been identified as having behavioural problems and were receiving counselling and support including the diabetic who was struggling with dietary restrictions.
4. A primary school child had been made head prefect at Epworth Primary school, an indication that there is good behaviour within the Home and this was a morale booster for staff and children alike.
5. A request was made for full audited accounts for 2020 to be sent, this was complied with later.
6. The Home aims to increase income from their projects (piggery, poultry, garden, fishery) from 10% to 30% of their income over the next 5 years. So far projects are improving and after the children are fed the surplus is sold locally.
7. There were 2 18 year olds still living at the home because they were still in school. The girl has now been reunited with her sister. The boy is still in the process of being discharged but he has no known relatives. The Methodist Church's Mission Director's office is trying to help with securing employment for him.
8. The Home tries to keep in contact with discharged 18 year olds for at least 3 months – there isn't the funding for further support. Asked how discharged young people survive, Linny said some go into farming and some start their own projects buying and selling goods for survival.
9. Poor rains and drought caused crops to fail this year, so they were having to buy in more food.
10. Covid had only affected a couple of children this year and they had been able to isolate them with a carer who stayed well. The nurse had followed WHO guidelines, but it was the effect on the national economy which had greatly affected the Home.
11. The generator is only used in emergencies when the electricity has been off for a couple of days. Fuel costs to run it are prohibitive.
12. Social worker/teacher students support residential staff.

The November meeting reported on Christmas plans.

1. It was hoped 60% of the children would manage to go to foster homes for the holidays for the first time since 2019. Some would stay in the home for safeguarding reasons.
2. Still trying to organise educational support in the home with the help of student social workers and the voluntary teachers.
3. Some buildings and 2 boreholes have been solarised and fundraising continues.
4. Plans are being considered for a private primary school on site to fill the gap between the Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD) and the college.
5. The ECD now has 2 teachers and the local children pay fees unless there is a bursary arrangement.
6. A girl attending form 5 at Kwende high school received an award for being the 2<sup>nd</sup> best student.
7. There is general improvement of behaviour of the residential children
8. Staff salaries hadn't been paid for 2 months
9. There are no serious health issues at the home, but they had paid for the funeral of a former child of the home who died in October.
10. Another former child was candidating for ministry in the Methodist Church.

Life at MRCH can be extremely difficult but in spite of all the economic hardships including low incomes, unpaid salaries and high prices, unpredictable weather and ever changing government policies, the staff remain committed to offering support, love and care for the children. We are very grateful to all our supporters who have stayed with us during these difficult times.

Carol Banham  
Chair FoMRCH  
May 2023

**FRIENDS OF MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDREN'S HOME**

Charity Registered Number: 1120944

**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from **01/01/2022** To **31/12/2022**

**Section A Receipts and payments**

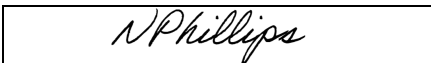
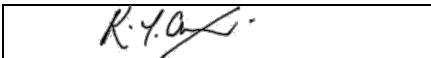
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £	Notes
<b>Receipts</b>					
Membership Subscriptions	850	-	850	750	
Donations	23,447	275	23,722	25,651	1
Student sponsorship	-	470	470	540	
Special appeal donations	-	-	-	3,000	
Fundraiser events	2,142	-	2,142	-	2
Gift Aid	10,963	-	10,963	-	
Interest	205	-	205	-	
Sundry Income	70	-	70	-	
Interbank transfers	-	-	-	16,344	
Bank error	-	-	-	4,856	
<b>Total Receipts</b> <i>(Gross income for Annual Return)</i>	<b>37,677</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>38,422</b>	<b>51,141</b>	
<b>Payments</b>					
Remittances to MRCH	33,783	690	34,473	26,873	
Bank charges	119	-	119	143	
Other expenditure (incl printing and postage)	534	-	534	-	
Interbank transfers	-	-	-	16,344	
Bank error	-	-	-	4,856	
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>34,436</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>35,126</b>	<b>48,216</b>	
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>2,925</b>	
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	
Cash funds last year end	17,808	-	17,808	14,883	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>21,049</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>21,104</b>	<b>17,808</b>	

**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

		Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £
<b>Cash and cash equivalent funds</b>	CoOperative bank account cleared funds	20,209	55
	Cheques received Dec not cleared in bank	840	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>21,049</b>	<b>55</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

**Note 1**  
Restricted donations received in the year (other than student sponsorship) relate to the Matthew Rusike Children's Home piggery project (to be remitted in February 2023) and the 'Let's Run to Light the Home for Children' Marathon event held by Matthew Rusike Children's Home

**Note 2**  
Fundraiser events included Land's End to John O'Groats in a 91 year old Ford and various church events

Signed by one trustee on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name
26/01/2023		Mrs Nicola Phillips BSc ACA BFP - Treasurer
Signed by Independent Examiner	15/05/2023	
		Katherine Culley CTA

## **FRIENDS OF MATHEW RUSIKE CHILDREN'S HOME INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

for Year Ended 31 December 2022.

Charity number 1120944

### **TRUSTEES**

- 1 Donald John Banham Trustee
- 2 Mrs. Carol Anne Banham Chair
- 3 Immanuel Mudzingo Trustee
- 4 Michael Mapako Trustee
- 5 David Lawson Graaff Trustee
- 6 Wayne Ronald Cooper Trustee
- 7 Rev. Edward Charles Patrick Standhaft Trustee
- 8 Rev. Audrey Lesley Standhaft Trustee
- 9 Nicola Louise Phillips Trustee Appointed 5 March 2022

### **Bank accounts**

Bank Account type	Account number	Sort code
Coop Bank Current	65859309	089299

I have conducted an independent examination of the Friends of Mathew Rusike accounts covering the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

The purpose of this inspection was to ensure that the laid down accounting procedures and internal controls are operating as effectively and are compliant with the Charities Act (2011) standard operating and reporting procedures.

The responsibility for preparing the final accounts for the charity remains with the Trustees of the Charity. Based on the income and receipts threshold set out in the Charities Act, the Trustees of the Charity have determined that a full audit of accounts is not required but that an independent examination will suffice. I have conducted the independent examination by:

- Inspecting the Treasurer's accounts recorded on Excel spreadsheet.
- Following a sample of funds deposited into the bank account.
- Examining whether payments made were properly authorised and supporting invoices and receipts were being kept.

Findings and recommendations The main points arising from this independent examination are as follows:

Bank Accounts:

The charity now operates one bank account with the Coop bank.

Treasurer's record book:

All receipts and payments have been recorded correctly by the Treasurer.

Receipts: The Treasurer does not hold a receipt book. No cash payments were received by the Treasurer during this period. Receipts into the charity account are made through cheque deposits and direct debits from members and supporters' accounts.

Payments. Remittances were made to Mathew Rusike Children's Home in Zimbabwe. The total annual amount remitted was £34,473.20. Acknowledgements of remitted funds by the recipient, Mathew Rusike Children's Home Zimbabwe were submitted to the independent examiner. Payments are being recorded and authorised correctly.

Katharine Culley (CTA) 7 Ford, Dartmouth, Devon Email : [kate.culley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kate.culley@hotmail.co.uk)



**FRIENDS OF MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDRENS HOME**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120944

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# Accounts

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## FRIENDS OF MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDREN'S HOME



Charity Number 1120944



### FoMRCH annual report 2021

The poor economic situation in Zimbabwe continued throughout 2021 causing the Children's Home much financial difficulty. Problems with daily price rises and shortages of basic staples continued. In February they said they had enough basics to last until April but they were running short of milk, kapenta (dried fish) flour, tea bags, peanut butter and beans, also toothpaste, Vaseline, toilet paper and cleaning materials. It wasn't clear if these basics were unavailable nationally or the Home couldn't afford to buy them. They had 4 lockdowns due to covid 19 during the worst of the pandemic and these continued to affect the children's education and their ability to leave the residential site. Donations in kind were left at the gate as visitors weren't allowed in. During these times non residential staff had to stay at home. Residential staff tried to continue with the children's education but as much of this had moved online they didn't have the devices available for all the children to use. When the children were able to return to school it was on a part time basis due to social distancing.

The rainy season had been good and they had planted a hectare of maize, about an acre of beans and some sweet potatoes. The vegetable garden was doing well, good rains continued and boreholes were filling up. Generally the projects did well enough in sales to enable them to give the staff a bonus for Christmas 2020.

Donations to the charity had picked up slightly so we increased the monthly remittance by £250 to £2250, so 4500 is now sent bimonthly. The home still depends on our regular remittance in order to plan the full care of the 100 children resident in the Home as it is the only money which is guaranteed to arrive. They do receive donations in cash and kind from local supporters and businesses but these are intermittent due to their own financial situation.

In June there was a big celebratory party for one of the children whose family had been traced and he/she was leaving the home to go and live with them

In June we received news that the Board had acted on some of our concerns about staffing and that they were hoping to have a qualified social worker employed by August. Unfortunately it meant that 2 long serving senior management staff were to be made redundant and their jobs would be taken on by the social worker. These are extra to the loss of the Senior Childcare officer who was moved into a rural area to run the Outreach centre at Donga and which still has no electricity and only one borehole they share with 40 families.

Due to covid 19 the Methodist Conference was finally held in November 2020 and we were pleased that the new Presiding Bishop had been receiving our newsletters for many years and would hopefully be up to date with our work and connection with MRCH. The new Chair of the Board also indicated that he was interested in the connection so we suggested online meetings could be set up to meet together. Our first one took place in June 2021. We submitted a list of all our concerns to everyone we hoped would be able to attend – in Zimbabwe, the National Director (also the director of the home), chair of the Board, The Missions Secretary and in the UK the FoMRCH Trustees. The meeting went very well and it was good to have direct contact so questions could be asked and answered particularly about all the staffing changes taking place- the reasons given were government requirements, financial constraints and elimination of duplication of roles. We were updated with their plans to increase the income from local projects to at least 30% within 5 years. We also agreed to meet twice a year on the same basis.

By July Zimbabwe was in lockdown again and we heard that 23 children in the home had tested positive though all had mild to no symptoms. The resident nurse imposed the strict quarantine rules, they all moved into 2 of the houses with a house mother in each to care for them. No staff members contracted the virus and there were no further cases among the children. Several weeks later 1 child tested positive, was isolated and no further cases occurred.

The new social worker joined the Home in August and was immediately involved in drawing up the new Safeguarding document with Church officials and updating all the children's records.

The fishery project was revived, a greenhouse had been donated to replace the two destroyed by a storm and was now full of tomatoes and peppers, and 2 sows (at least 1 pregnant) were delivered to the outreach centre in Donga. The food situation was slowly improving at this time.

In November we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> online meeting with our Zimbabwe colleagues, attended by the National director, Chair of the Board and most of the FoMRCH trustees. We were updated on various points which we had discussed in June including

- sponsorships for A level students
- 2 students are now attending university but the home struggles to support them
- the diabetic child is improving with the counselling targeting her dietary problems
- the social worker has settled well and is working with 29 children identified as having behavioural problems
- arrangements for the 18 year olds leaving the Home
- the Outreach Centre at Donga still doesn't have electricity or burglar bars
- the implementation of the new organogram

By the end of the year we had at last moved our account from HSBC to the Coop and the old account was closed. Transactions to Zimbabwe had worked well online for a couple of remittances and proved to cost significantly less than previously. Transference of standing orders had proved problematic for some people but these were finally resolved early in 2022. Although fundraising continued in the doldrums we were able to continue sending £4,500 bi-monthly.

Having ceased selling actual Christmas cards we decided to try Christmas e cards. These brought in a small amount of money, but it's early days. We continue to be with Amazon Smile, Pay Pal and now Give as you Live (Virgin Money Giving closed down at the end of 2021) and these also steadily brought in small amounts. We are also now partnered with over 5,500 online retailers and with CrowdFunder, which enables supporters to donate Nectar points.

As usual, the officers and 3 members of our committee stood down at the AGM and were then re-elected as no one else had come forward. A replacement minute secretary wasn't found so Michael Mapako agreed to continue on a temporary basis until someone comes forward. We are very grateful to him for staying in post.

Late in 2021 our prayers for a replacement treasurer were answered and Mrs Niki Phillips was warmly thanked for offering her services to the charity and Immanuel Mudzingo chose to stay with us as a trustee. He was warmly thanked for his 5 years of service especially agreeing to stay on for 2 more years until his replacement came forward. Niki is a Chartered Accountant so is well qualified to help us forward

The aftermath of Covid 19, the dire economic situation exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and world wide food and fuel problems mean the outlook for childcare at Matthew Rusike Children's Home continues to be challenging with a constant need for financial support. We are grateful to all our supporters who have stayed with us during these difficult times.

Carol Banham

[www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org](http://www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org)

Chair FoMRCH

May 2022



Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home  
 Receipts and Payments for the 12 months ended 31st December 2021

As at 31/12/2020	ITEM	As at 31/12/2021	Notes
£	RECEIPTS	£	
750.00	Membership	750.00	1
31,674.27	Donations	25,651.55	2
360.00	A level student sponsorship	0.00	3
8,508.00	Special appeal donations	3,540.00	4
0.03	Interest on deposit account	0.00	
0.00	Interbank transfers (HSBC to Co-op)	16,344.11	
0.00	Reversed bank error	4,855.55	5
<b>41,292.30</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>51,141.21</b>	
3,468.44	Bank balance brought forward	14,882.90	
<b>44,760.74</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS + BANK BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b>66,024.11</b>	
	PAYMENTS		
24,120.00	MRCH Remittances	26,873.41	6
180.00	Remittance Fees (bank charge)	143.00	
577.84	Printing costs (BAA Print)	0.00	
0.00	Postage and stationery	0.00	7
5,000.00	Playground equipment donation	0.00	
0.00	Interbank transfers (HSBC to Co-op)	16,344.11	
0.00	Bank error	4,855.55	
<b>29,877.84</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>48,216.07</b>	
14,882.90	Bank balance carried forward	17,808.04	
<b>44,760.74</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS + BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>66,024.11</b>	
as at 31/12/2020	BANK BALANCES	as at 31/12/2021	
14,424.75	HSBC Current Account	0.00	8
450.01	Co-op Bank Current Account	17,808.04	
8.14	HSBC Deposit Account	0.00	
<b>14,882.90</b>	<b>CLOSING BANK BALANCE</b>	<b>17,808.04</b>	

Accounts prepared by

Examined & found to be true reflection of transactions by

Immanuel Muddinge FoMRCH - Treasurer

Michael Mudyiwa BSc, MSc, MBps

Signature

Signature

Date

8/05/2022

Date

08/05/2022

**FRIENDS OF MATHEW RUSIKE CHILDREN'S HOME INDEPENDENT  
EXAMINER'S REPORT for year ending 31 December 2021.**

**Charity number 1120944**

**TRUSTEES**

<b>1</b>	<b>Donald John Banham</b>	Chair of the Trustees
<b>2</b>	<b>Mrs. Carol Anne Banham</b>	Executive Chairperson
<b>3</b>	<b>Immanuel Mudzingo</b>	Treasurer & Trustee
<b>4</b>	<b>Michael Mapako</b>	Secretary & Trustee
<b>5</b>	<b>David Lawson Graaff</b>	Trustee
<b>6</b>	<b>Wayne Ronald Cooper</b>	Trustee
<b>7</b>	<b>Rev. Edward Charles Patrick Standhaft</b>	Trustee
<b>8</b>	<b>Rev. Audrey Lesley Standhaft</b>	Trustee

**Bank accounts**

<b>Bank</b>	<b>Account type</b>	<b>Account number</b>	<b>Sort code</b>
HSBC (Closed 20/09/2021)	Deposit	81329669	403821
HSBC (Closed 20/12/2021)	Current	01200305	403821
Coop Bank	Current	0892996585930900	089299

I have conducted an independent examination of the Friends of Mathew Rusike (FoMRCH) accounts covering the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021. The purpose of this inspection was to ensure that the laid down FoMRCH accounting procedures and internal controls are operating as effectively and are compliant with the Charities Act (2011) standard operating and reporting procedures.

The responsibility for preparing the final accounts for the charity remains with the Trustees of FoMRCH. Based on the income and receipts threshold set out in the Charities Act, the Trustees of FoMRCH have determined that a full audit of accounts is not required but that an independent examination will suffice.

I have conducted the independent examination by:

- Inspecting the Treasurer's accounts recorded on Excel spreadsheet.
- Following a sample of funds deposited into the HSBC bank account and ascertaining whether deposits were being banked within reasonable time.
- Examining whether payments made were properly authorised and supporting invoices and receipts were being kept.
- In addition, I have carried out an evaluation to determine whether there is segregation of duties. This gives assurance that more than one person is involved in the critical steps in the handling of finance, to ensure that there are adequate checks and balances.

## **Findings and recommendations**

The main points arising from this independent examination are as follows:

### **Bank Accounts**

The FoMRCH held three bank accounts, two with the HSBC bank and one with the Coop bank. The deposit account is a reserves/investment account.

*The HSBC deposit and current accounts were closed on 20 September 2021 and 20 December 2021 respectively. The charity now operates one bank account with the Coop bank.*

### **Treasurer's record book**

All receipts and payments have been recorded correctly by the Treasurer.

### **Receipts**

The Treasurer does not hold a receipt book. No cash payments were received by the Treasurer during this period. Receipts into the charity account are made through cheque deposits and direct debits from members and supporters' accounts.

The Treasurer records the breakdown of cheques received at the back of the deposit slip before making the deposits. An email is sent to members to acknowledge receipt of cheques, samples of which were submitted.

A sample was tested to check if cheques were being acknowledged and banked in good time. All cheques sampled were deposited within ten working days from date of receipt of the cheque. This is within the set standard and should be maintained.

### **Payments.**

Remittances were made bi-monthly to Mathew Rusike Children's Home in Zimbabwe. The total annual amount remitted was £26873.41. Acknowledgements of remitted funds by the recipient, Mathew Rusike Children's Home Zimbabwe were submitted to the independent examiner. However, Trustees need to request or obtain more evidence from Mathew Rusike Children's Home that demonstrate that the funds are or have been used for the intended purpose as required by the Charities Commission.

Payments are being recorded and authorised correctly.

## **Minutes**

Minutes submitted indicate that meetings are being held regularly and in accordance with the constitution. Meetings were being held virtually mainly because of the Covid 19 pandemic risk management and in accordance with the government's lockdown regulations. This demonstrates the charity's ability to adapt to technological advances. It also helps to cut down on meetings expenditure and should be encouraged to continue.

However, it is advised that once minutes have been approved and adopted, they should be signed off by the Chair and filed. Important financial decisions that impact on the charity's operations are made during meetings. Signing off the minutes means that the minutes are true record of what was discussed and agreed.

## **Opinion**

The final accounts of the Charity were prepared by the Trustees. Overall, it is the opinion of the Independent Examiner that the accounts of FoMRCH are being managed well and there was no evidence or suggestion of any financial impropriety.

**Michael Mudyiwa**  
**(BSc, MSc, MBps)**

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Leicester

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**FRIENDS OF MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDRENS HOME**

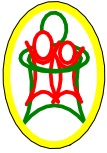
England & Wales - Charity number 1120944

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# Accounts

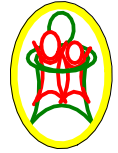
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# FRIENDS OF MATTHEW RUSIKE CHILDREN'S HOME



Charity Number 1120944

## FoMRCH annual report 2020



Sadly the poor economic situation in Zimbabwe declined further throughout 2020 causing the Children's Home much financial difficulty. There were severe problems with daily price rises and shortages of basic staples particularly mealie meal, dried fish, peanut butter and beans putting pressure on protein intake. They had barely the minimum of stocks of basic medications. Also, donations to the charity continued to decline and we had to continue £2000 each month being sent bi monthly to reduce exchange costs. The home still depends on our regular remittance in order to plan the full care of approximately 100 children resident in the Home as it is the only money which is guaranteed to arrive. They do receive donations in cash and kind from local supporters and businesses but these are intermittent due to their own financial situation.

In February it was reported that there had been 3 very good A level results for one residential boy and 2 good results from a community-based boy. 20 children had started primary and secondary education, (10 in grade 1, age 6, and 10 in form 1 age 11/12) and they had all been provided with the basic needs to start (stationery and uniforms) including the fees.

By March Zimbabwe was affected, along with the rest of the world, by the coronavirus 19, schools closed and non residential staff were locked down in their homes leaving residential staff to care for the children, educate them and keep the home running. This lasted for several months, fortunately spouses of residential staff were able to step in to help, one is a headmaster and 2 others are teachers so they supervised the education of the children. One of the teachers also helped the group of children new to MRCH just before lockdown who were identified as having learning difficulties and 2 young teens who had never been to school. The staff were able to use some online lessons to enhance the teaching. No visitors were allowed on site, deliveries were left at the gate, staff and children only left the site for essentials such as medical situations or looking for food.

Everyone remained well at MRCH. Children attended school on the premises from 11am to 1pm everyday dressed in their school uniforms to improve motivation. They had a lot of recreational time to fill but generally everything went well.

By the middle of the year it was clear that the Home's usual fundraising events were non-existent. These usually involve MRCH being open to many visitors (often over 1000) who bring goods in kind (food, cooking essentials, clothing) as well as cash, which has been raised in the churches. (70% of school fees are paid by local supporters) However they had managed to have a reduced event online that had also been 'attended' by Zimbabwe Methodist Fellowships in the UK, Canada and Australia during which donations could be made.

During the long school holiday in August a week of communication skills and fun was organised by the staff for the children. We received many lovely photographs of children doing their own dramas, showing off their dressmaking skills with a fashion show, including girls modelling dresses and boys modelling shirts or waistcoats they had made. They looked very proud. The smaller children showed their skills at pronouncing or spelling words in English, parading in their best clothes and a sports day, teenagers wrote speeches to read to the audience and there were debates and quizzes.

By October schools were supposed to be open but due to teacher strikes MRCH management decided to keep the children at home because of the unreliable situation. They had the advantage of continued education delivered by the educationists living on site. They kept in touch with the school situation. Exam classes returned to the on site MRCH college – 16 children and young people and they had PPE for each one.

A boy was taken to hospital with a serious health emergency which the nurse couldn't deal with. They spent the night waiting for help but as no doctors were available they decided to go privately. After an

examination and a scan, medication was prescribed and the nurse monitored the child back at the home. All this cost an unexpected amount of money.

There were some issues of sexual misconduct among teenagers and this was immediately reported to their respective social workers who swiftly responded and gave counselling. One 13 year old girl reported attempted rape immediately by a 20 year old boy due to for discharge to foster parents and a police report was made within two hours. The girl was taken for medical examination and the boy was put in prison on remand. He was then removed from the Home. The case is under court proceedings.

MRCH is now supporting 2 local Epworth families in dire need of food: a young mother of 7 with 4 months old triplets and a grandmother with 5 grandchildren.

Non residential Staff were able to return to work in November after being locked down for most of the year. School Fees went up to US\$988 equivalent for the 5 pupils who went back to school for their final examinations. Another unbudgeted area for the home is Covid19 testing, as they are testing all relief mothers and Caregivers as they come back from their off days. The cost is US\$15 per test.

The Home has a new Finance Officer to replace the one who resigned at the beginning of the year. The Church's finance officer had been dealing with the Home's finances until this time.

We continued to be very concerned about the situation with the Senior Childcare officer who had been transferred to a remote area without electricity or a vehicle to run a rural Outreach Community Centre. We did however begin to receive brief reports about what he was doing and he had managed to contact around 50 children and families who needed support. He is working to involve local families in his work and pass on food growing skills. Later in the year he was given a vehicle to help him but he still has to travel several miles to be able to use his laptop and recharge his phone.

Our March executive committee meeting was cancelled due to the virus but we were up and running online by May.

As a committee we have been unable to encourage fund raising and have relied on appeals to our supporters/members reminding them of the plight of Zimbabwe in addition to the virus and informing them that, like most other charities, our income had dropped yet again. Our first appeal raised under £3,000. We also asked more supporters to set up standing orders or maybe raise the amount they have already pledged if at all possible.

A committee member signed the charity up to charitable giving by Pay Pal, Amazon Smile and donating by text and over the year this has gradually brought in more income.

We agreed to invite leading people at MRCH and the Zimbabwe church, also our contact at HSBC to the online AGM in June but no one took up the invitation.

The church which prints the newsletter for us had closed down, like everywhere else, so with the help of a committee member we went with a company who was able to do everything including posting. This all seemed rather 'corporate' and we were able to revert to our usual routine by September.

As usual, the officers and 3 members of our committee stood down at the AGM and were then re-elected. A replacement minute secretary wasn't found so Michael Mapako agreed to continue on a temporary basis until someone came forward. We are still looking for a replacement treasurer but Immanuel Mudzingo has generously said he will stay on as long as possible until we can find someone. We had one volunteer but sadly he was unable to do anything on computer so couldn't attend online meetings.

The added burden of Covid 19 means the outlook for childcare in Zimbabwe continues to be challenging with a constant need for financial support.

May 2021 Carol Banham  
Chair FoMRCH



**Friends of Mathew Rusike Children's Home**  
**Receipts and Payments for the 12 months ended 31st December 2020**

<b>As at 31/12/2019</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>As at 31/12/2020</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>£</i>	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<i>£</i>	
730.00	Membership	750.00	Note 1
31,916.79	Donations	31,674.27	Note 2
500.00	A level student sponsorship	360.00	Note 3
0.00	Special appeal donations	8,508.00	Note 4
12.95	Interest on deposit account	0.03	
<b>33,159.74</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>41,292.30</b>	
19,470.39	Bank balance brought forward	3,468.44	
<b>52,630.13</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS + BANK BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b>44,760.74</b>	
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
48,483.69	MRCH Remittances	24,120.00	Note 5
240.00	Remittance Fees (bank charge)	180.00	
224.51	Printing costs (BAA Print)	577.84	Note 6
147.15	Postage and stationery	0.00	
66.35	Room Hire - Droitwich Methodist Church	0.00	
0.00	Playground equipment donation	5,000.00	Note 7
<b>49,161.70</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>29,877.84</b>	
3,468.43	Bank balance carried forward	14,882.90	
<b>52,630.13</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS + BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>44,760.74</b>	
<b>as at 31/12/2019</b>	<b>BANK BALANCES</b>	<b>as at 31/12/2020</b>	
3,010.32	HSBC Current Account	14,424.75	
450.01	Co-op Bank Current Account	450.01	
8.11	HSBC Deposit Account	8.14	
<b>3,468.44</b>	<b>CLOSING BANK BALANCE</b>	<b>14,882.90</b>	

Accounts prepared by

Examined & found to be true reflection of transactions by

**Immanuel Mudzingo** FoMRCH - Treasurer

**Michael Mudyiwa** BSc, MSc, MBps

## **Notes to the accounts:**

### **Note 1:**

Membership fee = £10 per annum and the count is based on donors who sign membership forms or write letters to say they wish to be included as members.

### **Note 2:**

Donations in 2020 remained at same level as previous year

### **Note 3:**

One donor has a standing order for £30 per month dedicated to A level sponsorship.

### **Note 4:**

Special donations were made up of:

- £4000 - Special appeal to donors launched in early 2020.
- £4,208 - from HMRC for Gift Aid claim for the year 2017
- £300 – Christmas gift for the children from one donor

### **Note 5:**

Remittances continued to be done bi-monthly to reduce bank charges

### **Note 6:**

A payment of £288.92 made in March for printing costs to BAA Printing was duplicated in December, in error as claim from one of the trustees. Funds reimbursed in January 2021 and will reflect in 2021 accounts

### **Note 7:**

Playground equipment special donation of £5,000 was from one donor.

# FRIENDS OF MATHEW RUSIKE CHILDREN'S HOME INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

31 December 2020

Charity number 1120944

## TRUSTEES

1. **Donald Banham**-Chair of the Trustees
2. **Mrs. Carol Banham**-Chair of the Executive Committee and Trustee
3. **Immanuel Mudzingo**-Treasurer and Trustee
4. **Michael Mapako**-Secretary and Trustee
5. **David Graaff**-Trustee
6. **Wayne Cooper**-Trustee
7. **Rev. Ed Standhaft**-Trustee
8. **Rev. Audrey Standhaft**-Trustee

I have conducted an independent examination of the Friends of Mathew Rusike (FoMRCH) accounts covering the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020. The purpose of this inspection was to ensure that the laid down FoMRCH accounting procedures and internal controls are operating as effectively and are compliant with the provisions set out under the Charities Acts (2011).

The responsibility for preparing the final accounts for the charity remains with the Trustees of FoMRCH. Based on the income /receipts threshold set out in the Charities Act, the Trustees of FoMRCH have determined that a full audit of accounts is not required but that an independent examination will suffice.

I conducted the independent examination by:

- Inspecting the Treasurer's accounts record book.
- Following a sample of funds deposited into the bank accounts and ascertaining whether deposits were being banked within reasonable time.
- Examining whether payments made were properly authorised and supporting invoices and receipts were being kept.

The main points arising from this independent examination are as follows:

### **Bank Accounts**

The FoMRCH holds three bank accounts (two with HSBC and one with Co-operative bank). The two current accounts are held as the ongoing operations accounts. The deposit account is a reserves/investment account which is passive.

### **Treasurer's record book**

All receipts and payments have been recorded correctly by the Treasurer.

### **Receipts**

All receipts into the charity account are made through cheques and direct debits from members and supporters' accounts into the Charity's account. The Treasurer records the breakdown of cheques received at the back of the deposit slip before making the deposits. An email is sent to acknowledge receipt of cheques, samples of which were submitted.

## **Payments.**

FoMRCH's main payments were in the form of bi-monthly remittances of £4000 to Mathew Rusike Children's Home in Zimbabwe.

Acknowledgements of remitted funds by the recipient MRCH were submitted to the independent examiner.

All payments for operational expenses were properly recorded and authorised. It appears that the internal control system in this domain is working well.

## **Opinion**

It is the opinion of the Independent Examiner that the accounts of FoMRCH are being kept well and there is no evidence or suggestion of any financial impropriety.

**Michael Mudyiwa**  
**(BSc, MSc, MBps)**

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