



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

**STRAWBERRY HILL OVERSEAS AND  
COMMUNITY CONCERN**  
Annual Report of the Trustees  
For the year ending 31st December 2023  
Charity Registration Number 1120787



**The first cohort of pupils with Sisters of the Assumption and Bishop Edward Mapunda at the opening of Mother Marie Eugenia Milleret Girls' School, at Kisaki near Singida, Tanzania**

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the accounts for the charity for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102) on 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', and the Update Bulletins, as have the accounts which have been drawn up on the accounting policies set out in Note 1 of the Financial Statements.

## **Trustees**

Mrs Elizabeth Byrne Hill (Secretary)  
Dr Kevin Cook (Chair)  
Mrs Valerie Cunningham  
Dr Caroline Healy  
Dr Mary Mihovilovic  
Ms Sally-Ann Richards  
Mrs Lauren Siva  
Dr Helen Thouless

## **Principal Office**

St Mary's University, Strawberry Hill, TWICKENHAM. Middlesex. TW1 4SX  
020 8240 4000

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/strawberry-hill-overseas-community-concern/shocc.aspx>

## **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc, PO BOX 1000, BX1 1LT

## **Charitable Objects**

Following discussions at meetings during 2019 and 2020, the Charitable Objects of the charity were amended and agreed upon by the Trustees at a meeting on 30th June 2020. They were accepted by the Charity Commission on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The Objects now read:

To advance in life and relieve the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable individuals in the UK and overseas by:

- advancing their education,
- providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities, and capabilities to enable them to participate fully in society.

## Background and approach

Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern (SHOCC) is the official charity of St Mary’s University, Twickenham, London. It is a UK charity working with vulnerable individuals in the Twickenham area and overseas. The charity was founded in September 2007 replacing its predecessor Strawberry Hill Overseas Concern (SHOC) which began in 1971.

SHOCC is a relatively small charity working with trusted partners, individuals and communities that have demonstrated need and have clear goals. We support projects financially and provide appropriate tailored advice and encouragement. Our projects illustrate what Paul Vallely (2021) termed “reciprocal philanthropy” where we have an ongoing relationship with our partners, treat them with respect and have an empathetic approach, aiming for projects quickly to become self-sustainable. We have few administrative costs and 98% of donations go to our projects.

Projects that might receive financial support are submitted for consideration to the trustees. Projects put forward need to have a link with the university such as through a trustee, member of staff, student, or alumni. Trustees seek funds to meet these needs by making bids to funding bodies and seeking financial support from individuals. Trustees are also responsible for placing the work and success of the charity in the public domain. They do this through a newsletter, by maintaining the charity website, by using social media such as Facebook, Instagram and other means. While SHOCC often provides the main funding contributions, its projects typically feature contributions from the beneficiary communities themselves.

Since 1971 staff and students have committed themselves to a period of work overseas or have worked on a voluntary basis with local disadvantaged groups. Since 2018, the charity has organized an annual volunteering programme funded through a Catenian bursary. This enables students to work for a short period at one of our overseas projects.

An examination of projects funded since 2007 has shown that SHOCC has provided nearly £1 million for 62 projects in locations as far apart as Twickenham, Guatemala, South Sudan, and Tanzania. In keeping with our Charitable Objects, four-fifths of our funding has been provided for education-related projects with most of the remainder given for health and humanitarian relief such as responding to Covid-19 pandemic demands. [See Table 1 below for details].

**Table 1 Projects funded 2007-2023**

Projects	School construction	Pupil fees	Health-related	School and other equipment	Humanitarian assistance eg food banks	School and other farms	Staff/student bursaries	Totals
Amount donated	£570,820	£164,382	£132,535	£65,792	£43,158	£9,987	£7,967	£970,012
Percentage	57.4%	16.5%	13.3%	6.6%	4.3%	1.0%	0.8	100
Projects assisted	14	4	9	5	8	16	6	62

Note: Some projects were assisted in more than one way.

## Achievements and performance

In 2023 SHOCC received £79,576 to support the work of our partners in the local area and the Global South. We were able to provide £58,861 in funding for 23 projects. As in past years, costs were kept to the minimum and 98% of our income went directly to projects.

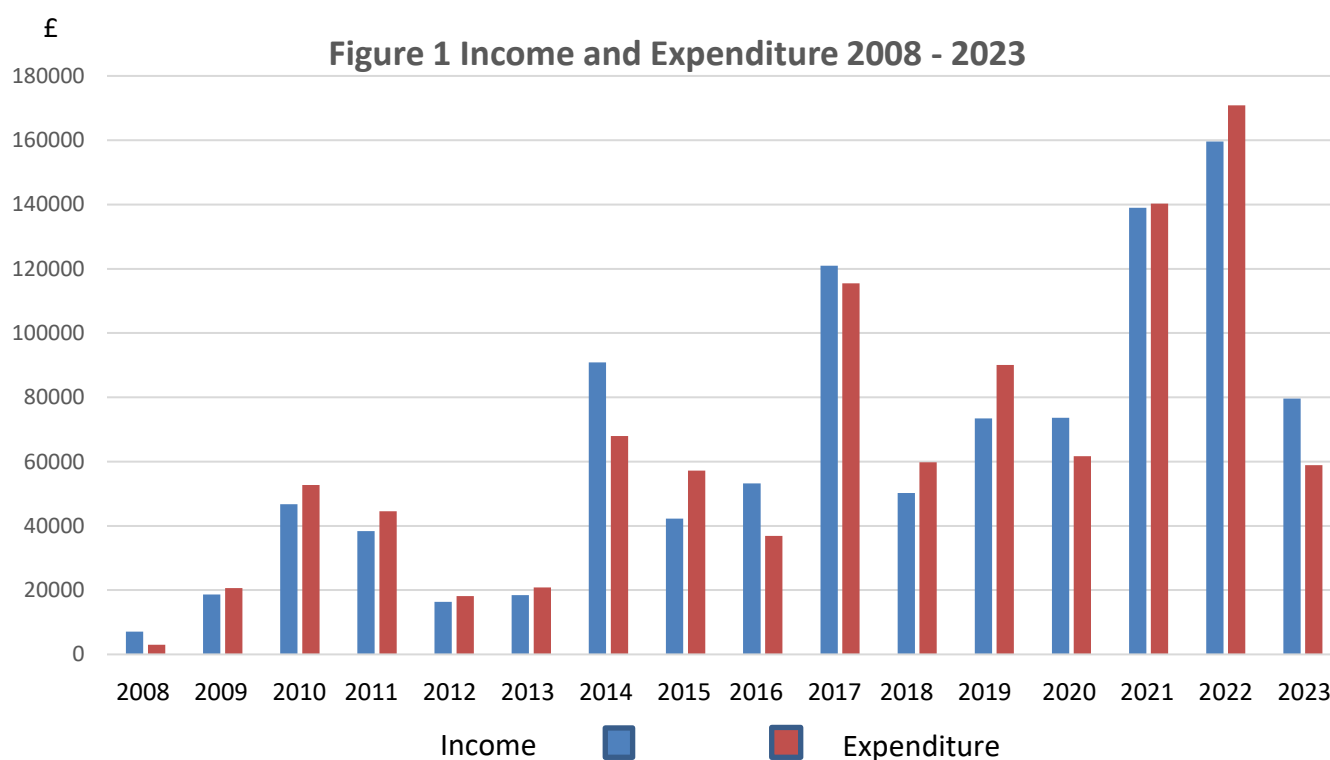
The total funds received during the year were a reduction on the previous year. [see Figure 1]. As Table 2 shows, we continued to support projects in Kenya, Richmond, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania.

**Table 2. Projects funded in 2023 with sources and uses made of the funding**

Project	Amount	Funding source	What our funding achieved
St Jude's Primary Academy, Mto Wa Mbu, Tanzania	£323	Anonymous donor	School fees for an orphan child in the infant class
The Vineyard Community, Richmond	£1,000	Just Giving campaign set up with Sisters of the Assumption and university students	Food banks in local area
SPEAR, Twickenham	£1,000	Just Giving campaign set up with Sisters of the Assumption and university students	Raising funds for the homeless in the local area
Chanua Children's group, Mwanza, Tanzania	£400	Regular donors through our Just Giving site and private donations	Provision of sewing machine for women's group
Engaruka Parish, Tanzania	£462	Donations made through our Just Giving site and anonymously	Damaged amplifier replaced in church
Christ the King school Tambura South Sudan	£5,903	Parish of Effingham and Great Bookham	Completion of classroom project at school
Orkilili Secondary school, Moshi Tanzania	£4,250	Anonymous donations	Upgrade facilities at school prior to conversion to technical training college
St Jude's Academy, Mto Wa Mbu, Tanzania	£2,500	Anonymous donations	Furniture and fittings for the volunteers' cottage at the school
Red Cross Turkey appeal	£1,084	University appeal in conjunction with the Sisters of the Assumption	Campaign raised funds for the Turkey earthquake appeal
Outspan Schools, Kampala, Uganda	£4,628	Northampton family donations for the schools	Construction work at the primary school
Kisaki Girls' School, Singida, Tanzania	£2,250	Anonymous donations	To complete the toilet construction at the new school
Moshi orphan fees	£760	St Mary's Chapel parishioner	To enable student to complete studies
Concert for Ukraine	£2,788	Concert and Just Giving campaign in conjunction with the Sisters of the Assumption	Enable teachers to receive training at Lviv University in counselling pupils during war
Kasubi School, Kampala, Uganda	£2,130	Donation from school supporter	Repair of school toilets following flooding

St Jude's Academy, Mto Wa Mbu, Tanzania	£8,500	Sponsored cycle ride by "charity chair"	Provision of 300 chairs and 50 tables for the new school dining hall
Fees for student at University, Kenya	£740	Anonymous donation	Funding enabled student to start teacher training course
Kisaki School, Singida, Tanzania	£8,000	Concert and auction held at the University	Provision of furniture for the new dormitories at the school
Fees for student at JKUA university, Kenya	£829	Kew resident donated fees	University fees, accommodation, food and a laptop provided
School fees for orphans	£750	Anonymous donor	School fees at two schools for orphans
Orkilili Secondary School Moshi, Tanzania	£1,144	Anonymous donors	Further funding to enable school to convert to a technical college
St Jude's Academy, Mto Wa Mbu, Tanzania	£705	Anonymous donor	School fees for disabled orphan at school
Outspan Schools, Kampala, Uganda	£5,450	Northampton parents	Classroom and office construction at the school
Outspan Schools, Kampala, Uganda	£500	Northampton parents	Fees for orphan pupils studying at the school
Gwakabbo Community Initiative	£1,500	Families in north London	Construction of school boundary fence and store

Our income of £79,576 came from a variety of sources with individual small donations (<£5,000) totalling £28,259 including excellent returns from the Sponsored Cycle ride, Sponsored Walk and the concert/auction. Our Just Giving site raised £26,821 and we received £2,000 from Trusts. HMRC provided us with a further £8,214 in tax refunds. Major donors (>£5,000) provided £14,282. For the overall picture of income and expenditure since 2008, see Figure 1 below.





We continued the major exercise carried out during 2020 and 2021 that examined our financial situation since we became a registered charity in 2008. We used an industry classification of donors as shown in Table 3 below. The results show that our Just Giving campaigns and one-off donations provide over half of our funds followed by single donations of above £5,000, Corporations, and Trusts. Funding sources that we hope to develop further are Legacies and Give as you Earn.

**Table 3 Sources of funding 2007-2023**

Just Giving Campaign donations	One-off donations	One-off large donations >£5000	Trusts	HMRC Tax rebates	Legacies	Corporates	Sales and events	Monthly giving inc. GAYE	Total
£345,003	£237,474	£142,012	£109,207	£52,525	£52,403	£38,703	£21,886	£8,950	£1,008,163
34.3%	23.5%	14.1%	10.8%	5.2%	5.2%	3.8%	2.2%	0.9%	100%

## Our Stories of Change exercise

We continued to develop and update our Stories of Change for each of the projects funded over the period 2008-2023. This involved providing a project brief and background and analysing the inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts for each project. It was not felt appropriate to make use of the Social Return on Investment (SROI) approach to the measurement of impact. Instead, we prefer to obtain photographic evidence and anecdotes from



SHOCC is a small charity working with partners we trust. Our projects are initiated by our partners around the world. When we recognise the need for a project, we will support it financially and through advice and encouragement. As a result, our projects illustrate what Paul Valley (2020) calls 'reciprocal philanthropy' where we have an ongoing relationship with our partners, treat them with respect and have a two-way, empathetic approach; helping them to help themselves. 99% of every donated pound goes to our projects.



### ST MARIE EUGENIE SECONDARY SCHOOL MOSHI TANZANIA [SDGs 4, 5, 6, 7]

**PROJECT STATUS: COMPLETE**

**Project brief:** To support the Sisters of the Assumption in acquiring land for a new girls' boarding school near Moshi Town in Tanzania; in building classrooms, laboratories, computer rooms, dormitories, toilet/shower blocks, and a kitchen. Dedicated accommodation for the Sisters is also planned. SHOCC will accompany the project and seek donors willing to offer support.

Date of entry: 23.06.2022  
 Project type: School build  
 Year(s) of project: 2008 - 2017  
 Awarded to date: £88,418

**Background:** In 2003, the Sisters of the Assumption, East Africa Province, recognized a clear need for secondary education places, especially for girls, in Tanzania. They began to raise money for a piece of land at Chekereni and to negotiate the purchase. Kilimanjaro Project, a predecessor of SHOCC, raised funds in support. By 2008 when SHOCC became a charity and incorporated this project, only one building had been completed but after a large injection of funds by the order and a requirement to hire a recognized architectural firm, the building began in earnest. SHOCC has supported the enterprise throughout from classrooms and dormitories, laboratories, and a library, to the final donation for solar power for the school.

INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS
What did SHOCC contribute? The financial, human and material resources used Funding of £80,644 between 2008 and 2020. A 3-day inspection and report by Arup engineers on all aspects of the building, water harvesting, drainage and future planning provided through SHOCC	How were the inputs be used? The actions taken or work performed Purchase of land and securing with perimeter wall. Construction and equipping of girls' boarding school Forms 1-4 including classrooms, dormitories, laboratories, a library, computer facilities, and domestic science facilities. A borehole and water tower. Solar lighting system across the whole school. 2-year Sixth Form added from 2016. A residence, initially for 4 sisters, later extended.	What were the tangible results (deliverables) of the activities? School officially opened in 2011 with 3 cohorts (270 girls) already in place. Excellent teaching and learning facilities. An environment in which girls feel safe, protected by a perimeter wall and lit at night by solar power. A secure lighting source that makes evening study possible. Attention to needs of disabled pupils with ramp access to upper floors.

OUTCOMES	IMPACTS
What short-term changes (1-2 years) resulted from the activities? 340 girls offered high-quality education to Form 4, (GCSE equivalent) achieving excellent results. Girls able to study with enthusiastic teachers; to continue evening study safely with lighting supplied; to be given space and encouragement to develop away from the demands of family child-minding, chores and farming. Full participation in sport, music and drama activities.	What longer-term significant changes (3-5 years) did the <u>beneficiaries</u> experience? Good retention of high-quality teachers in all subjects School now <u>complete</u> with over 450 students Form 4 results place SMEGSS in second place in the region. 80/84 students achieved standard 1 <u>results</u> in 2020. Form 6 results place SMEGSS 19 <sup>th</sup> of 55 in the region. Girls are able to continue to Sixth Form education without having to compete for limited provision elsewhere. The school is now largely self-financing from fees.

Photographs taken by Trustees and others when visiting the project



The two top photos show the school entrance and a view across the gardens. A considerable amount of tree planting has transformed the site. SHOCC funded the provision of solar panels for the school and Trustees were present for the switching on of the lights. The bottom left photo shows the inclusion of a ramp for disabled pupils.



The bottom right photo shows Trustee Elizabeth Byrne Hill and Assumption Sisters meeting a party of girls carrying out a litter collection in the school grounds.



beneficiaries about how SHOCC’s activities have affected projects. This has proved to be a very valuable exercise. We have added each Story of Change for both current and completed projects to our website. An example of the Story of Change for the completed St. Marie Eugenie Girls’ Secondary School at Moshi, Tanzania project is shown below.

**Stories and case studies, with descriptions and anecdotes from beneficiaries**

- “During my four years with the Assumption, I have seen many personal changes. I became a courageous girl, a free soul, open-minded, honest and loyal. It has added value to my life as a girl chasing dreams. A proud soul of the Assumption”. Student and now a businesswoman (2011-2014)
- “I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the Assumption Sisters because 4 years’ experience with the Assumption family has helped me to grow educationally, spiritually, mentally and socially and has brought a very positive influence to my life. Be blessed”. Student (2011-2014)
- “2011-2014 was my greatest moment and I learned a lot; health, education and spiritual life. Also, I learned to put God first in everything, to LOVE everyone and help others who are in need. Since "Love never says I have done enough" and always St Marie Eugenie wanted her people to "Be the cotton between sheets of glass to keep others from shattering". Student and now a medical laboratory technician.
- “2011-2014 was a great experience. 4 years with the Assumption family has been a blessing. Education life, spiritual life and social life were always fulfilled with pleasure. A proud soul of Assumption family”. Student.
- “I have learned a lot about being a good and spiritual girl, self-love and how to live with people in any society. Education life and spiritual life were so perfect and I was able to apply them in every situation in my studies and life in general. Also being in St Marie Eugenie helped me with the issue of languages Kiswahili, English and French and I am very competent in them. Am so glad and proud to be a member of the Assumption family. Student



## The project managers of some of our current projects

SHOCC is a small charity working with partners we trust. Our projects are initiated by our partners and when we recognise the need for a project, we will support it financially and provide advice and encouragement. We have developed an ongoing relationship with our partners, treat them with respect and have a two-way, empathetic approach; helping them to help themselves.

Our partners responsible for four of our current major projects ensure that our funding is used wisely and carefully.



Sister Dee Smith  
Hospicio Santa Maria  
Pajapita Guatemala

Fr Ibiko Morris  
Christ the King Refuge  
Tombura South Sudan

Sister Schola  
Kisaki Girls' School  
Singida Tanzania

Fr Peter Kway  
St Jude's Academy  
Mto Wa Mbu Tanzania

## Snapshots of some of our current projects

### Santa Maria Hospice, Pajapita, Guatemala (Sr Delia Smith)



**One of the kitchen gardens team prepares plants for a HIV family's garden**

In late 2023 SHOCC helped Sr. Dee to write a bid for funding to Arcaid, a parish charity in Farnham. The bid was successful and Sr. Dee received £2,000 to construct 5 kitchen gardens and to repair the roofs of five family homes.

Work began immediately and was completed in early 2024. With the kitchen gardens project, each family received plants and compost from the hospice farm. The project team then visited the selected families and prepared the land and planted the young plants. Family members were trained in how to look after the plants including watering and applying fertilisers.

The house building project worked to replace the roofs of five poor, HIV+ families thereby providing better living conditions. It is hoped to obtain further funding to enable the project to be expanded in 2024.

### Christ the King women's refuge, Tombura South Sudan (Fr Ibiko Morris)

Thanks to a further kind donation of £5,903 from a university alumnus, it was possible to complete the construction of six new classrooms at Christ the King kindergarten school. The project began in 2018 and, since then, nearly £100,000





**Pupils parade at assembly in front of their new classrooms**

has been donated to upgrade the school. Pupil numbers have increased, absenteeism has declined and pupils no longer have to stay at home during the rains. The previous thatched classrooms leaked and it was impossible to hold lessons. Some of the funding was used to add classrooms to the primary school. The parish of Effingham and Great Bookham kindly provided £10,000 to furnish the classrooms and they have committed to providing a women's refuge and fees for orphans studying at the school. This project will start in 2024.

### **Kisaki Girls' Secondary School, near Singida Tanzania (Sr. Schola)**



**A view of the corridor outside one of the classrooms. A disabled access ramp has been provided**

A concert and silent auction were held in November 2023 at the university to raise funds to furnish the new dormitories at Kisaki. This raised over £6,000. One of the government conditions placed on the school prior to its opening was for proper accommodation to be available for all pupils. The school opened on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2024. Since SHOCC's first donation of £3,250 in 2015 to help fund the purchase of the land for the school, SHOCC has donated £131,264. This has paid for a tube well, classrooms, toilets, dormitories and the science laboratory roofs. This is one of the few girls boarding schools in the area and will take most of its intake from the Sisters of the Assumption primary school at Iguguno some 20 miles to the north-west. SHOCC hopes to be able to continue to support Kisaki for many years to come and SHOCC trustees will attend the official opening, hoped to be held in 2024.

### **St Jude's Primary Academy, Mto Wa Mbu, Tanzania**

SHOCC has been involved with St Jude's Academy since 2015 when scouts from Cleveland constructed the first two classrooms. Since then, we have funded another five classrooms and seen pupil numbers increase from around 70 to over 450. Results in the November 2023 Form 4 national examinations placed the school, third in the District. Overall, SHOCC has donated just over £65,000 for the development of the primary school.

In 2022 we started fundraising to construct a large dining hall next to the school kitchens and thanks to a most generous grant from the Loyola foundation in the US, the dining hall has been completed.



In August 2023, the SHOCC Chair completed a charity cycle ride over 80 kms to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. This raised £8,500, sufficient to provide 300 chairs and 50 tables for the new dining hall.

Pupils enjoy a lunch of ugali and beans in the new dining hall. The hall can hold all 450 pupils and is also being used for District examinations, community meetings and staff meetings.

### The Vineyard Community and other charities supported



During 2023, SHOCC continued to support local charities such as the Vineyard and Spear. It did so alongside with the Sisters of the Assumption and raised over £5000 for these and for the Turkey earthquake appeal and the Ukraine. The latter was raised at a concert held in the Waldegrave Ballroom and was used to fund weekend training sessions at Lviv university for teachers working with traumatised pupils in their schools. By so doing, SHOCC was able to deliver on the extra 'C' in its name; that of helping to meet the needs of the disadvantaged in our local community.

### Plans for the future

The main objectives set for the year 2024 are:

- To continue to support our Global South projects such as those at Orkilili, Mto wa Mbu and Kisasi in Tanzania, Kampala in Uganda, Tombura-Yambio in South Sudan and the Santa Maria hospice in Guatemala.
- To seek to widen our links with local charities and provide funding to meet their needs.
- To continue to expand our donor base through Give as you Earn, the Charities Aid Foundation and our Just Giving campaigns and to investigate the opportunities for obtaining funding from a wider range of Trust Funds and Corporates.
- To continue to raise funds through sponsored events in and around the University.
- To raise an income for the year of at least £100,000 from a diverse funding base. A breakdown of targets for each of our projects for the year is given below:

#### Projects with funding targets

- Christ the King women's refuge, Tombura, South Sudan £50,000
- Outspan school Kampala Uganda £20,000

- St Jude Thaddeus school Mto Wa Mbu Tanzania £20,000
- Local area projects £10,000

## **Structure, governance and management**

SHOCC was founded in September 2007 and has been governed as a Registered Charity (number 1120787) since that date. It replaced the existing charity, Strawberry Hill Overseas Concern (SHOC) founded in 1971. It took the opportunity when becoming a charity, to widen its remit to take in local as well as international projects. It revised its Charitable Objects in 2020 seeking to focus more closely on education.

## **Trustees**

Trustees are selected by the existing trustees in accordance with our Trust Deed and according to the skills and experience required for the charity to function well. New trustees are inducted into their roles under the guidance of the existing trustees and with the help of the relevant publications of the Charity Commission. As well as becoming familiar with the charity's objects, values, mission and ways of working, trustees are encouraged to visit projects whenever possible to see at first hand the work of the charity.

During the year to 31st December 2023, SHOCC had eight trustees. In 2016 we accepted ex-trustee David Leen's offer to act as independent examiner to review our annual accounts. We welcomed two new trustees from the local university with skills in the field of education. We continue to be grateful to the university's chaplaincy, who provide us with considerable support.

During 2023 we continued to hold some of our meetings online and these took place using Teams and Zoom. These were held to review the work of the charity, to agree forward plans and budgets and to determine other matters of general policy.

## **The operation of the charity**

Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern (SHOCC) currently does not make use of office space and has no overheads of this kind. Its management is in the hands of the Chair of Trustees.

Trustees and the supporter group, operating from the university, make a wide range of valuable contributions. Regular donations are received from annual events such as chapel collections, from sponsored events and from individual donations through Give as you Earn or to the charity's Just Giving sites on the web. Contributions to the charity's work are also received from past students.

## **Public benefit**

In exercising their powers and duties, the Trustees have due regard for the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission. The charity's activities give rise to identifiable public benefits, both in the UK and overseas.

Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern's focus is on education for the disadvantaged in its local community and overseas. For them, the benefits are clear. Providing sums of money for classroom construction or for the building of an HIV/AIDS hospice can be the starting point for wider development. Wherever possible, we encourage the local community to help meet the costs of projects as this gives them ownership and helps to make the projects sustainable. Their contribution often takes the form of providing the labour required to carry out construction work. Our funds can never meet all the costs of a school and input from the local community during and after construction is essential. As an example, we have asked parents and parishioners at St Jude's Primary school to provide 10% of the overall costs of classroom construction.

## **Risk management**

As a grant-awarding charity, the main area of risk is the extent of our commitments in relation to the funding of our projects. The charity seeks to limit commitments to a level which can be met out of funds available to it. Funds cannot be provided unless they are available and projects are made aware of the time it may take to meet a commitment in full given that SHOCC is a relatively small charity.

All projects must have a distinct and recognizable link with the university and funding is not provided for applications that do not meet this criterion. For large projects such as that at Christ the King, St Jude's or Kisasi, a local project manager is appointed and a contract negotiated between SHOCC, the project and the contractor. Three quotations are usually required for projects of this size and a separate bank account is mandatory. SHOCC agrees a timetable for the work and regular tranches of funding are only delivered on the successful completion of stages of the work. A proportion of the funding (usually 5%) is retained and is only paid to the contractor after the completion of the project, subject to it being signed off at this time.

In assessing individual projects, the Trustees consider the following aspects of each proposal for funding:

- The significance and importance of the project in relation to the charitable objects of SHOCC and the mission and values of St Mary's University
- Some form of link with the university, its staff, students and alumni
- The need for and benefit/impact of the project to the community in which the project is based



- The viability/sustainability of the project in the medium/longer term i.e. will it require future investment or will it be self-sustaining?
- The likelihood of the project proceeding to completion and achieving its aims
- The value for money of the project taking into account the funds that are being requested in the light of the potential benefit/impact of the project and the likelihood of accessing related/other funding if required.

The risks inherent in each project are assessed. In particular, the following aspects are considered:

- The capability of the partner organisation to carry out the project and the effectiveness of its operations
- The commitment of the beneficiary community to the project
- The technical soundness of the proposed works and their sustainability after completion
- The validity of the budgeted costs and the timescale proposed for the project.

## **Financial review**

The annual accounts show a total income for the financial year ending 31st December 2023 of £79,576 (2022 £159,583). The total expenditure by the charity on its project programmes was £58,861 (2022 170,888). The charity had no project support or governance costs and had no fundraising costs. The majority of expenditure went to school building projects in South Sudan and Tanzania and to providing fees for children at a school in Uganda. A small amount was provided for local Twickenham needs. Details of some of these projects are provided elsewhere in this report.

The financial performance of the charity is monitored against agreed budgets with the trustees receiving regular statements of income, expenditure and reserves held.

The level of reserves is kept under regular review. The Trustees have agreed to keep this figure as low as possible as the charity has no overheads, and wishes to distribute its income to projects as quickly as possible. Nevertheless, on no account can the charity be allowed to manage a negative overall budget and projects are only supported when funds are available.

Reference is made in the financial statement to those funds received for specific projects (restricted funds). These are held for the purposes agreed with the donors and are expended to the relevant programmes. In the accounts for 2023 restricted funds accounted for 99.2% of total income; a small increase from the 95.6% in 2022. Cash reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 were £25,072.51 (2022 £4,357.48).

I declare, in my capacity as a Trustee, that the Trustees have approved this report and have authorised me to sign it on their behalf.

Signed: *Kevin L Cook* Full name: DR KEVIN LAURENCE COOK

Position: Chair of Trustees Date: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024