



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Newsletter Summer 2024

Dear friends of SHOCC,

Around this time each year we prepare our Annual Report and finance documents ready to send them to our auditor for examination and then on to the Charity Commission. In 2023 we distributed £57,346 to 17 different projects. This was down on the previous year but was still an impressive achievement. In June 2024 we passed the £1 million mark in donations since we became a charity in 2008.

A concert and auction held at the university on St Cecilia's Eve (this year it will be held on St Cecilia's Day, November 22nd 2024), a second concert at St. Winefride's Church at Kew and other donations, helped us to exceed our campaign target of £9000. This was used to furnish the dormitories and classrooms at the new Assumption Sisters girls' school at Kisasi in Tanzania. £8,500 was sent to St Jude's Academy, also in Tanzania, for furniture for the new dining hall. A second concert raised nearly £3,000 for a project at Lviv university in Ukraine, a Europe wide scheme to enable teachers to receive training in dealing with the trauma of war. This project is the brainchild of the Assumption Sisters (Europe).

Achievements in 2024

So far this year we have distributed £70,678 to 10 different projects. These have included £35,457 for Christ the King parish in South Sudan for the construction of the women's refuge, £12,165 for school fees and £14,524 for pupil fees at Outspan School in Kampala. The Outspan fees were donated by families living in Northamptonshire. £3,146 was sent to Kisasi for science equipment, £2,565 to Santa Maria hospice in Guatemala for the kitchen garden/homes project and £2,000 to the Gwakabbo school building project in northern Uganda. a new project. We also raised £1,250 from the Chess for Africa campaign. (For more information about some of these projects see articles later in the newsletter).

Some of our project partners

Our projects illustrate what Paul Valley (2020)¹ calls 'reciprocal philanthropy'. This approach aims to develop a trusted relationship with our partners, treat them with respect and help them to help themselves.



Sister Dee Smith
Hospicio Santa Maria
Pajapita Guatemala



Fr Ibiko Morris
Christ the King Parish
Tombura South Sudan



Sister Scholastica
Kisasi Girls' School
Singida Tanzania



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

¹ Valley, P. (2020), *From Aristotle to Zuckerberg*. Bloomsbury.

A closer look at some of our current projects

The Santa Maria Kitchen Garden/house roofing project



A team member tends vegetables in a family garden with plants from the hospice farm

In late 2023, we received an invitation from Arcaid, the Farnham parish charity, to submit a project that would enhance the work of the Santa Maria Hospice at Pajapita in Guatemala. The hospice is managed by Maryknoll Sister Delia Smith (St. Mary's 1972-1975). £2,000 was sent to Sr. Dee in January 2024 along with a further £565 received from two UK visitors to the hospice.

5 families were helped to develop a kitchen garden complete with seeds and plants and five were provided with a new roof for their homes. Approximately 50 family members, all suffering with HIV, benefitted from these improvements and two women have been encouraged to start small chicken projects to generate additional income for their families.

In June, as the project moved towards completion, Sister Dee wrote *“Establishing the gardens has been a challenge as we have been experiencing severe changes in the climate since the beginning of the rainy season in May. We are still feeling the effects of tropical depression Alberto and the surrounding coastal plain has suffered tremendous flooding. The roads have been blocked and the main highway to Guatemala City has been closed due to the road collapsing. Travel is very difficult at the moment.*

The families have received seeds and small, starter plants to begin their gardens. The hospice farm has provided spinach, kale and chaya, plantain and banana trees, cucumber and chiles, papaya and melons. The idea of the gardens is to provide families with a small income from the sale of their surplus produce while at the same time improving their own dietary needs using organic vegetables and fruits. The more pressing problem has been the housing repairs as the families we selected needed much more than just a roof. We secured the assistance of the local mayor's office which has provided labour to fix the roofs and we have also asked the mayor to include the families in other social assistance programmes”.

We have recently learned that the UN World Food Programme has visited the project and has agreed to provide additional funding to carry it to more families suffering from HIV living in the Pajapita area.

Christ the King women's refuge and pupil fees scheme, Tombura, South Sudan



The women's refuge at Tombura begins to take shape. The photo was taken in July 2024.

In 2022, the Parish of Effingham and Fetcham in Surrey, offered to continue the work of a Simmarian, and provided £10,000 to furnish the classrooms construction he had funded. They asked Fr Morris, the Tombura parish priest, to provide a list of three projects the parish would like to develop, were funding available. The Parish selected a women's refuge as their first choice.

Tombura was badly affected by the civil war that raged in South Sudan from 2013 until 2020 and killed an estimated 400,000 including 42,000 children. Many women lost their husbands and there are many orphans who cannot afford an education.

The Parish agreed to provide the £50,000 required and the first tranche was sent in January 2024. The parish also asked Fr Morris to provide costings for an orphan child's food, clothing and education for a year. A figure of £200 per child was agreed. Many parishioners have signed up to the scheme. So far £12,165 has been sent. SHOCC is delighted to be involved in supporting Christ the King parish. Since 2018 and including the Effingham and Fetcham parish donations, Fr Morris has received £156,793.

The concert and auction for Kisaki and the opening of the school



Pupils, Sisters and Bishop Edward Mapunda at the opening of Mother Marie Eugenia Milleret Girls' School, Kisaki, Tanzania

A concert and a silent auction were held on St Cecilia's Eve in November 2023 to raise funds to furnish the new dormitories at Kisaki, Tanzania. This, and a second concert held at St Winefride's Church in Kew and other donations helped us to exceed our target of £9,000.

SHOCC began supporting the new girls' boarding school in 2015 and has contributed £131,265 to fence the compound, provide a borehole, construct classrooms and toilets and roof the science block.

We were delighted to learn that, on January 6th 2024, the school opened to its first pupils. Bishop Mapunda joined the five Sisters, staff and pupils. An official opening will be held in 2025 and some SHOCC trustees will attend.

St Jude's dining hall opened and the 80km sponsored cycle ride



In 2022 SHOCC started fundraising to construct a large dining hall at St. Jude's Academy at Mto Wa Mbu in Tanzania. Thanks to a 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 of just over 80 kms to celebrate his 80th 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 450 pupil dining hall. The hall is also being used for district examinations, parish, community and staff meetings.

Funds for local organisations – the Vineyard Community and Spear



Volunteers pack food ready for distribution at the Vineyard Community Centre in Richmond

During the past year, SHOCC has continued to support local charities such as the Vineyard Community and Spear in Richmond upon Thames. In conjunction with the Assumption Sisters, we raised over £5000 for these organisations and for the Red Cross Turkey earthquake appeal.

Nearly £3,000 was raised at a concert held in the Waldegrave Ballroom. This was used to fund weekend training sessions at Lviv university in Ukraine for teachers working with traumatised pupils in their schools. The donation became part of a larger initiative by the Assumption Sisters across their European Province

By taking part in these initiatives, SHOCC was able to deliver on the extra 'C' in its name; providing for the needs of the disadvantaged in its local communities.

The SHOCC Chess for Africa campaign



A young child delights in the game of chess

In May, with the encouragement of SHOCC trustee, Chris Bryde, the university chess club President, we held a chess competition at the university. Chris kindly donated the SHOCC cup for the competition winner and we ran a campaign to raise funds to purchase chess sets for three of our schools, one at Kangundo in Kenya and the other two at Mto Wa Mbu and possibly Chekereni, in Tanzania.

The campaign was very well supported and we raised sufficient to purchase 42 sets, 14 for each school. These will be purchased by the schools in country. In addition, three undergraduates, all good chess players, will spend time at the schools and introducing pupils to the delights of the game.

This encouragement of chess is not our first. A few years ago, we provided a small amount of funding to help develop chess at Outspan school in Kampala. Pupils now regularly represent the school at District and National levels. Imagine the Outspan pupils' delight when, one evening, Phiona Mutesi, star of the film 'Queen of Katwe', joined the pupils at a showing in the school playground. Phiona was born at Katwe, in Kampala.

Our St Jude's office block appeal



An architect's impression of the new teachers' rooms and reception/offices block

Having provided the funding for seven classrooms and a dining hall at St Jude's, Mto Wa Mbu, Tanzania, we are now concentrating on our next building for the school, a two-storey reception and staff room block.

At an estimated £40,000, this building will be one of our largest projects to date. It will provide a much-needed staff room on the top floor and offices on the ground floor for the headteacher and secretary. The architect's drawing gives an idea of what it might look like.

So far, we have raised £10,000 for this project but need a further £30,000. To help us reach this challenging target, you can donate via our St Jude's Just Giving site at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stjudes2022> Please mark you donation St Jude's Reception

Situation vacant - help needed: We would welcome the help of someone with experience of writing funding applications for not-for-profit organisations. The amount of time involved would not be too demanding and would suit someone retired. Offers of help should be directed to Dr Kevin Cook at kevin.cook1943@gmail.com

A final thought ... please remember us in your will: In 2015, Amy Hemmings, a past member of the St Mary's University geography staff, left 10% of her estate to SHOCC. As a result, we were able to renovate the science laboratories of a Kenyan girls' school and complete several other projects.

You can leave a legacy to SHOCC in your will. State if you would like it to be used for a particular project.

How to make a donation to SHOCC: Thank you for your continued support in making these incredible projects possible. You can make a contribution to our work via our Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/shocc2021>