

2008 or 2009?

The normally peaceful Kenya erupted into political violence following elections in December 2007. 1500 were killed, and hundreds of thousands made homeless. Some of the worst violence was in the area we visit – it included the shooting (and injuring) of a teacher at Shiatsala Secondary. We had planned our trip for summer 2008, but the violence made insurance impossible to obtain and building supplies uncertain and expensive. We had no choice but to postpone until 2009 – God willing, we plan to be there 16-29 August.

How can I help?

Each member of the team needs to raise £1000 towards travel, accommodation and materials for the projects. **We need your financial support** – please speak to the person who gave you this leaflet to find out how to give, or to one of the vicars. If you are able to give tax efficiently, that can be arranged through either St John's or Christ Church since AICMAR is a mission partner of both churches.



Look out for **sponsored carwashes** advertised separately. Coffee and bacon sandwiches while you wait!

Do you have an old (but not too old!) **laptop computer** that you could donate to the school or library projects?

We would love to hear from you if you think you can help. Support from local organisations and businesses in Hartford and Wharton welcome!



Contact details

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For more information about AICMAR,
visit www.aicmar.org.

For the latest news about the projects, visit
<http://www.stjohnshartford.org/kenya.shtml>

Shiatsala Village



Could you help us make this a high school computer room?

Kenya 2009

Could you help us improve this strategic guest house and library?



Three projects, two churches and one aim ... Kenya 2009

Three projects

In August 2009, a team of around 20 men from mid Cheshire will go to rural Kenya for two weeks to work alongside local people on three practical projects. The first project aims to establish a computer room at Shiatsala Secondary School. The second will develop the strategically important Eshimuli Guest House, and the third will improve the Chadwick Library. The second two projects are at AICMAR, Butere.

Two churches

The workers come from two local churches: Christ Church, Wharton and St John's, Hartford. The team will be led by the vicars, Tim Hanson and Mike Smith.

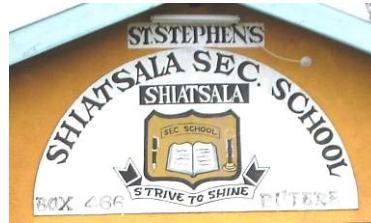
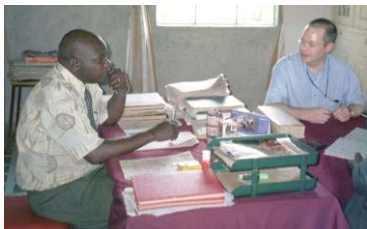
One aim

Tim and Mike have had the privilege of travelling to



Kenya with AICMAR each year since 2002 to help train local preachers. During that time, they have established links between English and Kenyan schools and seen something of the

material as well as spiritual needs of this very poor, rural part of sub-Saharan Africa. **This time, we are aiming to serve the local people in a practical way.**



Pupils have written letters and local donations have enabled the construction of the Hartford Library at Shiatsala. Within the building, one room has been designated as a

Since 2003, Shiatsala Secondary School has been linked to Hartford High School.



Shiatsala Secondary School

“computer room”, but as yet it is completely empty. Our first project is to wire up the room,



take and install second-hand laptop computers and do some basic training for the staff. Like all teenagers, the pupils at Shiatsala want

to make the most of their lives, and for those who go on to tertiary education or to work in the towns, this will be a huge advantage.



AICMAR is the African Institute for Contemporary Mission and Research. It is based in Butere Town, the capital of the local district. AICMAR exists to promote biblical preaching in all churches and to advance African evangelical leadership and scholarship throughout the region. John Stott has spoken of ‘the strategic importance of AICMAR in Western Kenya. ... it has my wholehearted support.’



Each time we have visited AICMAR, we have stayed at Eshimuli, the only guest house in town. This is run by the Anglican



AICMAR, Butere

Church, but is a crucial resource not only for Christian work but for other development workers who come in to the area. Our second project is to build an (indoor!) dining room – currently most meals are served out of doors.



AICMAR is run from the Chadwick Library. A unique project in such a deprived area, it

has been visited and lauded by the President of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki. It is set up principally as a theological library, but also has sections devoted to local culture and history. Many locals come each day just to read the papers! It is a significant asset in the town. Our third project is to equip the library with computers and computer networking which will enable its resources to be more widely and effectively used.