



The Companion Dioceses of Rochester and Mpwapwa

Bulletin: Issue 18 – Spring 2024

Welcome

We hope you enjoy reading this Bulletin – please share this with others. It's a little snapshot of the deep friendship between parishes, schools and individuals in Rochester and Mpwapwa Diocese in Tanzania and the Provincial College of St Philip's.

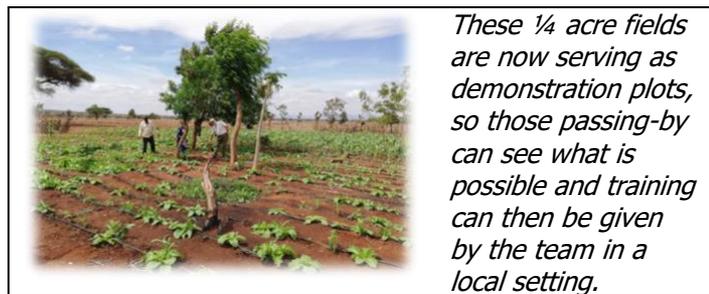
We were warmly welcomed when we visited Mpwapwa in November, where we had a fantastic time. It was a joy to spend time with Bishop and his team, visit our own and other parish link communities, meet the students receiving bursaries at St Philip's and see the wonderful Eden Garden project which is amazing!

Donations for Mpwapwa in general, or any projects can be made quickly and easily by going to <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/mpwapwa2023> or ask us for a Donation Form.

Do please email us on the address below if you have any questions, wish to become involved or to give feedback on the Bulletin.

Sylvie & Stephen Barbor
Co-Chairs, Mpwapwa Companion Diocese Link
mpwapwa.cdsg@gmail.com

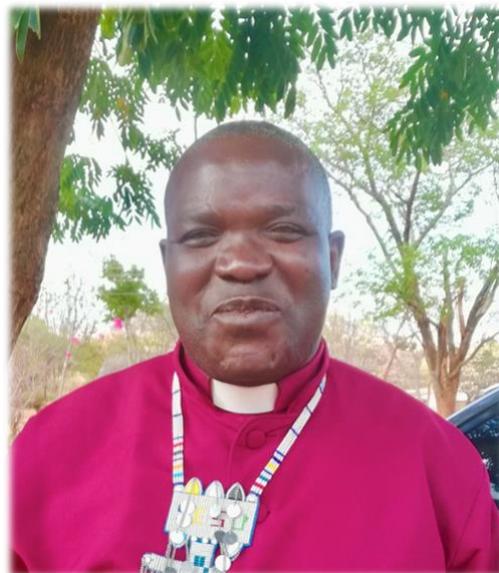
Latest news



These ¼ acre fields are now serving as demonstration plots, so those passing-by can see what is possible and training can then be given by the team in a local setting.

Rochester's **"Poverty & Hope" Appeal** is helping to change lives in Mpwapwa and giving hope to so many others. Thank you to all parishes and individuals who have supported the 2023/24 Appeal.

From the grant to Mpwapwa, loans are given to farmers - in the form of equipment that they keep - to water ¼ acre of their farm using drip irrigation. It's all set up and monitored by the "Every Water Drop is Precious" team based at St Philip's College. Each farmer is confident they will repay the value of the equipment in just ONE YEAR (one has just repaid their loan in 6 months!). As the loans are repaid more farmers can benefit and reap great harvests several times a year, despite the impact of climate change and the subsequent erratic rains.



Bishop Luzineth Kingamkono (above) sends greetings to all Friends of Mpwapwa, very much appreciating your prayers and love for his Diocese. He prays for you all and wishes you a blessed Lent season and Easter celebrations.

By Christmas he had conducted confirmation services in each of the 140 parishes. It's not unusual for 50 candidates to be presented by each parish – who must learn the Creeds, 10 Commandments and Catechism by heart! He has also visited each Compassion Project overseen by Mpwapwa Diocese and expressed thanks for those of you who individually or as parishes sponsor children or support Projects.

He is currently visiting the 13 Deaneries to share the 3-year Strategic Plan, and ordaining Catechists.

+Luzineth and Dorika have been improving their English through 3 bursts of intensive tuition – a great use of some of Rochester's funding which will help us all connect better when he visits here in due course.

Please pray for good health and strength for +Luzineth and Dorika, and the new Diocesan team – Rev Amos (General Secretary), Furaha (Chief Accountant), and Israel (Development Officer). And of course for Stephen Ngailo, Link Coordinator.



Heavy rain at the start of the year caused flooding. Here the bridge at Mkoka has been swept away in the powerful flow. Fields and young plants were also left covered in mud. Please pray for a good harvest despite these floods, and for food for all this year.

St Philip's Theological College, Kongwa



Rochester's +Jonathan and David Kitley with Agripa and Agnitha Ndatila at St Philip's this August.

A huge "thank you" to everyone who prayed or donated recently in response to the college's financial shortfall. Over £11,000 has been raised to-date by Friends of Mpwapwa and parishes.

On hearing the news Rev Canon Agripa, Principal said "It is unbelievable to hear about this astonishing news of the way people have responded to our financial crisis. Tears are on my eyes to see this great love of the people who cares a lot on our ministry. Through this my faith has grown, strengthened and have energy to move forward. I have no good language to express my gratitude to all who have responded."

St Philip's has 67 residential students this year (4 receiving bursaries from Friends of Mpwapwa), with 12 residential tutors and staff and their families, and 20 general workers who live in the 3 nearby villages. Please contact us if you could offer a bursary of £800pa for 3 years to enable a student to study there.

Chiddingstone / Bondeni Primary Schools

Generous giving at Chiddingstone Primary's Harvest Festival and Christmas Fayre means Bondeni are now the proud owners of a computer, photocopier and much needed desks for pupils. These are some of the many desks made in Mpwapwa and presented to the school by +Luzineth during his visit to CCMP communities.



Queen Esther's School have 135 boys and girls enrolled so far this year! The school did really well in the Form 2 and 4 National exams in November.

The Staff Office (right) and classrooms are currently being upgraded. Thank you for the donations are still coming in for the Mussa Mhaha Memorial Fund (see info on page 1 to donate).



STOP PRESS:

Monica, Headteacher, and the Diocese ask: do you have a teaching/schools background and would love to spend 3-6 months assisting Queen Esther's as they develop the school? If so, please contact us.

Fawkham & Hartley: Lukole

In past years, F&H have enabled girls from their link parish of Lukole to attend the nearest secondary school of Kibakwe (about 10km away) by providing uniforms and books. It's fabulous to hear that there is now a secondary school just opened in Lukole – these girls will be attending because of the generosity of their link.



St Stephen's Tonbridge: CCMP, Matongoro

Erasto, Project Officer, continues to teach and mentor pastors, community members and Self Help Groups in the 10 link communities as they move from a dependency mindset to one of empowerment. The water management workshops are opening the eyes of farmers to harvesting water, gravity pumps, and drip feed irrigation. Bishop Luzineth and Rev Canon Agripa signed a Memorandum of Understanding with St Stephen's recognising each party's support for the New (CCMP + water management) Project for the next 3 years.

Rolling out CCMP across the Diocese is a key part of the Diocesan strategy.



Matongoro Primary receive a banner created by the pupils of Bishop Chavasse School, featuring values of honesty,

hope, wisdom, "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock" and a drawing of their school were some of the elements.