



The Companion Dioceses of Rochester and Mpwapwa

Bulletin: Issue 20 – Autumn 2024

Welcome

We hope you enjoy reading this Bulletin – please share it with others. It’s a snapshot of the deep friendships of parishes, schools and individuals in Rochester with those in Mpwapwa Diocese and at St Philip’s Theological College in Tanzania. Some are new friends, others go back to 2005 when the Diocesan friendship was established.

Latest news from Mpwapwa can be found at <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/about-us/overseas-links/mpwapwa/>. Our link is based on friendship and prayer, which often leads to the sharing of resources. If you scroll down the web-link you’ll find ways to make a donation if you wish, using the form or on-line giving, to Mpwapwa in general, or any of the initiatives mentioned.

If you’re interested in visiting in 2025 – dates to be arranged – please drop us an email.

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Latest news

Queen Esther’s School now has 135 students, including 19 boys. Due to climate change, they do now need to develop a reliable and sustainable water source, it is hoped that an old water course may only require a “mini borehole”. A survey at QE will show whether this is a viable option. Reliable water will enable them to develop much of the land at the school, which will go a long way to feeding the students and staff and thereby reducing costs. Corina enjoyed 2 days at QE teaching English. The celebration service for Form 4 graduates took place in September – scoring high in national exams.



Graduation Day



New classrooms

Motorbike Thanks to donations received for Mpwapwa in general, we have been able to send out funds for the Diocese to purchase a motorbike for their new Diocesan Development Officer to carry out his duties effectively.



Three of us from St Stephen’s Tonbridge visited Mpwapwa in September. This was the first visit of our Goddaughter, Corina, to Africa. We visited St Stephen’s link communities to see how the Self-Help Groups and drip irrigation projects were going, delivered two 2-day workshops, and spent time with the Diocesan team. Our 40th wedding anniversary was unexpectedly celebrated in style at Mkoka ... complete with special songs, renewal of vows ... and cake! We each treasure our memories of that visit ... and the adventure of travelling on the new SGR train service back to Dar!

Bishop Luzineth will be in Rochester for most of November - attending the Conference for New Bishops at Canterbury from 6-18th. This is the first visit from anyone from Mpwapwa since Bishop Jacob came in September 2018. We are really excited about Luzineth’s itinerary and the opportunity for him to be with our Bishops, meeting with those parishes and schools who have links in Mpwapwa, and with others.

You are warmly invited to the **Annual Celebration Service** of Rochester’s Companion Diocese links. All are welcome to come along to St Stephen’s Church, Tonbridge on **Saturday 2nd November at 6.30pm**. Bishop Jonathan will lead the service, with both Bishops Given from Kondoa and Luzineth contributing. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Please pray for:

- Bishop Luzineth’s preparations for his visit, for safe travels and a blessed time here in England.
- Jofrey, the new accountant at St Philip’s Theological College as he settles into that important post.
- Funds to enable the Diocesan vehicles to get back on the road – most are off the road, needing major services.
- The Diocesan team whilst Bishop Luzineth is away.
- Plans to roll out CCMP across the Diocese.

St Philip's Theological College, Kongwa



Students Cleopa, Benson, Sadok with his wife Pendo, Elieza and Charles (*above, with Principal Agripa*) are so grateful for the bursaries that enable them to study at St P's. Corina had a wonderful time there helping with preparations for a double wedding, learning some Swahili, joining the 7am worship, attending various lectures, and getting to know the students. A highlight was playing with the children for hours a day! It was a joy to meet with Rev Jean who was also there, teaching for 3 months.



We visited their Eden Garden project just before dusk... in the middle of dry scrubland there are several hectares of lush maize, tomatoes, papaya, mango and passion fruit. This photo shows just a part of it. The crops grown help feed the students, with surplus sold at the local market. Workshops take place here for many, including District Officers. St P's expertise is also shared in St Stephen's partner communities through the 'Every-Water-Drop-is-Precious' project. Plans are now afoot for every deanery in the Diocese of Mpwapwa to have demonstration drip irrigation plots commissioned.

Bennett Memorial School What an amazing experience - 3 teachers and 17 pupils from the school in Tunbridge Wells visited Mpwapwa in July. Through teaching and sports the relationship with their link school of Mwanakianga was deepened. The group also learned about climate change and the new agricultural methods used at St Philip's College and now being shared in communities which is bearing literal and spiritual fruit and hopefully for years to come. They also spent a day in Matongoro, learning about life and culture in rural Tanzania. On the Sunday they worshipped in the Cathedral in Mpwapwa town before visiting Queen Esther's School in the mountain. The group had a fantastic time in the country and even fitted in a safari at the Mikumi National Park before flying home.



The Bennett Group at Mwanakianga School



Exploring traditional homes in Matongoro



Enjoying sports at Queen Esther's School

St Stephen's Tonbridge / Matongoro project is progressing with more Self-Help Groups having been formed. We met members of several SHGs during our visit who told us what a difference the program had made – they were no longer dependent on others, were meeting weekly to study the Bible, had their own small projects, and were saving weekly through their groups.

We visited farmers who have received drip irrigation training and equipment – they are doing really well. The "Poverty & Hope Appeal" grant to Mpwapwa has provided loans to farmers for these water projects. Some have even extended their hand-dug water holes to use as fishponds! This is a farmer close to Mkoka – his former barren scrubland is now generating up to 3 diverse harvests a year.

