



The Companion Dioceses of Rochester and Mpwapwa

Bulletin: Issue 21 – Spring 2025

Welcome

This Bulletin brings news from Mpwapwa and is a snapshot of the deep friendships parishes, schools and individuals in Rochester have with those in Mpwapwa Diocese and St Philip's Theological College in Tanzania. More info is at <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/about-us/overseas-links/mpwapwa/>.

Do please use this Bulletin as a prayer prompt. If you wish to give to Mpwapwa Diocese or St Philip's, donations can be made by following the QR Code below or using <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/mpwapwa2025>.

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QR code

Latest news

Queen Esther's School now has 139 students and had really good exam results. However, due to climate change, a reliable and sustainable water source is needed. Quotes for drilling a borehole, installing solar power and pump, taps, pipes and drip irrigation for 1 acre, so they can grow more food, is being prepared. Cost is likely to be around £13,000. We have £4,000 donated already for this project from Friends of Mpwapwa – it would be great if together we can get this project up and running soon!



The proposed bore location is in front of the admin block.

Shoreham / Chunyu

We wish Rev Di Rees and her family well in her retirement. She has been a tireless supporter of the link, established when she and Gillian, Head of the Village School, visited in 2018. Fundraising from her sponsored walk has recently provided new desks for the primary and secondary schools in Chunyu, and new window grills for St Joseph's Church. Bishop Luzineth had a great few days in Shoreham, and even tried his hand at bellringing!



Bp Luzineth, Bp Given (Kondoa) and Bp Jonathan at the annual celebration of our overseas links at St Stephen's Tonbridge on 2 Nov

Bishop Luzineth had a great time here in November. He attended the Conference for New Bishops at Canterbury and spent time with Rochester's Bishops Jonathan and Simon, and with many linked parishes, schools and friends of Mpwapwa.

Key areas for the Diocese are:

Church & Community Mobilisation Process: to build on St Stephen's Tonbridge work in 10 communities and roll out CCMP across the Diocese including teaching new agricultural methods to combat the impact of climate change

Queen Esther's School: water provision; and a fence around the new dormitory block is needed

St Luke's Medical Centre: improved facilities

Vehicles: most are off the road awaiting major repair or servicing. Christmas giving enabled them to purchase a second-hand vehicle – they are so happy for that!

Selecting and enabling a few pastors to study for a degree: a requirement now to be considered as a candidate to be a Bishop in Tanzania

Theological Education: to look at the best way to provide ongoing training for lay ministers and pastors

Pensions for retirees and widows: to set aside funds to enable those who have served the church, especially pastors, and their spouses, to receive support.

Please pray for the **Pastors' Seminar** from 26-30 March, when 650+ pastors and spouses will meet in Mpwapwa for training in CCMP and administration.

Impact of Climate Change! Mpwapwa received some rain at the end of last year and also in January – enabling families and farmers to prepare the ground and plant seed. The rains have since failed! Please could you pray for good rain to come soon and water their seedlings and for a good harvest this year. Maize and sunflowers are the main crops.

St Philip's Theological College, Kongwa



Bp Luzineth with Agripa visiting St Philip's



Community workshop at Sang'anga

Congratulations go to Rev Canon Agripa on his 10 years as Principal of St Philip's this March! He welcomed Bishop Luzineth to the College in January and showed him the Sang'anga Eden Garden project and many other projects around the campus.

Finances for the College remain on a knife-edge. The College is working to provide degree courses and is also introducing new short courses – a 1-month music course for choirs and teachers, and training for some of Mpwapwa's catechists.

There are 55 Certificate or Diploma students enrolled this year, with Mpwapwa Diocese having 5 students at the college receiving bursaries from 'Friends of Mpwapwa' via Rochester. St Philip's Tunbridge Wells is now linked with the College!

Please pray for Agripa and the huge responsibility he has, for the tutors, the new accountant (Jofrey), and the whole college support team. Janet – who was administrator for many years – is currently out there and as always is being a huge blessing.

Workshops have been held recently as part of the "Every Drop of Water is Precious" program, introducing local officials and farmers to new irrigation and farming methods which is having a huge impact on many lives.

The College itself does, however, need a borehole (the one used for their Sang'anga garden is over 2km away) for the students and campus – cost is estimated at £10,000. While climate change has affected their historic natural spring – we trust that God will provide. Donations should indicate "St Philip's borehole project".

Fawkham & Hartley / Lukole



The girls with Pastor Joseph and their families

In January 10 girls embarked on their secondary education. They had passed their

Standard 7 exams, but their parents could not afford the uniforms, shoes and books needed to attend Lukole Secondary School. A donation from F&H has opened the doors for these girls! The girls and their parents are so very happy.

Crockham Hill / Mkwala Primary School

Thanks to Crockham Hill, solar power has just been installed at Mkwala Primary to run their school borehole and supply the new drip irrigation project for their garden. It's working really well and is proving a huge benefit for the school - with no more electricity bills to run the bore! Food grown will feed the pupils, with any excess being sold at market with the income used to improve the school's facilities.



Students helping instal the bore's lining



The school garden being prepared

Chiddingstone Primary / Bondeni



Students with the new musical instruments

School fundraising, including a teddy bear zip wire, has recently provided musical instruments for students and cement and bricks for a teachers' toilet block at their link school. AND, due to the improvements their link has provided, including great exam results, the Tanzania Government is providing 2 extra classrooms along with a staff room! Building is coming on well, with parents and community helping, with completion expected in March. What a blessing that link is proving to both schools.