



Kondoa Partnership Handbook

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Introduction

Rochester Diocese is linked with four dioceses, which are Estonia, Harare (in Zimbabwe), and Kondoa and Mpwapwa in Tanzania, through parish to parish, school to school and community to community relationships that are active and growing. In our overseas links we aim to:

- Support and encourage each other in God's mission
- Commit ourselves to learning about each other's history, tradition and partnership
- Share our spiritual resources and our material ones
- Build strong and lasting friendships in order to advance the Kingdom of God within our Dioceses

These links are designed for long term mutual support and encouragement. There are challenges, culturally, geographically, needs-based, and language, but none of these are insurmountable.

The Kondoa and Rochester Diocese partnership started in 2005, during a visit led by Revd. Canon David Kitley to Kondoa and Mpwapwa Dioceses. Shortly after this the first two parish links were established – between Chemba and St Michael and all Angels Wilmington and between Bereko and St Andrew's Paddock Wood. Chemba is to the south of Kondoa town and Bereko to the north – both are on the Cape Town to Cairo road which travels from south to north across the Diocese.

The relationship between our Dioceses continues to grow and our combined prayer life deepens, from our side with a growing 'friends of Kondoa' group now at more than 100 people, who receive news and prayer requests from Kondoa.

In 2016, Bishop Given Gaula and the Archbishop of Tanzania (also Bishop of Mpwapwa) joined us in our celebrations of 10 years of the partnership between Rochester and both Mpwapwa and Kondoa Dioceses at services in Kondoa and Rochester cathedrals, both attended by Bishop James and Bishop Given.

Churches, schools and individuals here in Rochester Diocese have supported a number of projects recently, including: Bishop Justus Vocational Secondary School, Chemba; a two-year course and a three-year course at the Kondoa Bible School; the Women's Empowerment Project; a new Diocesan Toyota land cruiser; contributions to Bishop Given's stipend and also for a number of pastors where their parishes are linked; bee keeping and agricultural projects and other parish projects.

2016 also marked Kondoa's 15th year anniversary as a diocese, and two Rochester parishes (Paddock Wood and Wilmington) celebrated 10 years of their parish links.

This Partnership Handbook has been put together by the Kondoa Partnership Group with the hope that it will help your current and potential friendships with Kondoa to grow and develop positively, bearing fruit for both yourselves and your Kondoa partners.

Sue Chalkley

Chair, Kondoa Partnership Group

Introducing Kondoa Diocese

Kondoa Diocese is in the Region of Dodoma and comprises the Kondoa and Chemba Districts; Chemba recently was made a district in its own right. The Diocese of Kondoa has 34 parishes, 8 deacons, 50 pastors and 97 catechists. The area is predominantly Muslim with a population of about 600,000 people, of which approximately 67,000 are Christians, 10,000 of whom are Anglican.

Kondoa is a relatively new Diocese, established by Tanzanians, unlike many of the older Tanzanian Dioceses, which were set up by western missionaries many years ago. It was established in 2001 and its first Bishop was Bishop Yohana Mkavu, who was instrumental in initiating the relationship that exists today between our Dioceses. It was carved out as a Missionary Diocese from the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. To reflect these origins, each parish is linked with a deanery in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. The Diocese is the poorest diocese in Tanzania. Electricity is gradually being installed along the Cape Town to Cairo road and is (intermittently) available in Kondoa Town. Elsewhere the villages have no mains electricity and no running water supply.

The Cathedral is currently the only parish in the diocese which is self-sustaining financially and all others are unable to contribute much by way of a parish share to support the Diocesan structure. Some churches meet in good buildings, some have no roofs, several have thatched roofs, two worship in school classrooms and two worship under trees. Educational attainment in the area is low and even the pastors are mostly only educated to primary school level. For this reason, a key priority of the Diocese is theological education. This enhances the skills of the pastors while working in their parishes and should help to provide the Diocese with more leaders over the years to come. Currently the Diocese has the Bishop, a small staff team and then the pastors. The majority of the pastors are not paid and are subsistence farmers and all but two parishes pay hardly any parish share to the Diocese.

Bishop Given is working to build ecumenical partnerships based on friendship in Christ and mutual respect with other local denominations such as the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches. He is also building relationships with the Muslim community, which has shown its support, especially during the recent times with fundamentalist action against Christian leaders elsewhere in Tanzania. Both Muslim and Christian festivals are holidays in Tanzania, and the festivals are celebrated publicly with neighbours of both religions. If you are in Kondoa for a Muslim festival, the greeting is 'Eid Mubarak'. Ramadan is taken seriously, and many Christians follow the same rules of Ramadan during Lent.

Although the Diocese is young, the area is very historic. In Kondoa Town, there is a geothermic spring which has watered the town and surrounding areas for many hundreds of years. The reliable source of relatively clean water made Kondoa a resting place for merchants, including slave traders. Many slaves walked the path from the Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire) to the Tanzanian coast, passing through Kondoa. A memorial to this is the area of Kondoa Town called 'Ubembeni' which means, 'the place of the Bemba', the Bemba being a Northern Zambian/Congolese tribe. When the slave trade became illegal, the slaves resting in Kondoa were abandoned and many stayed and built their lives there. Using the ubiquitous 'Wales' as a unit of measure, Kondoa Diocese is approximately twice the size of Wales and is mainly semi-arid highland plains with less than 500mm of rain each year. Work and social life in Kondoa is dictated by the seasons. The average temperature is comfortable, being 20-31°C. July is the coldest month, with November being the hottest. The rainy season should start in December when ploughing and planting starts, and it will rain sporadically until April. Harvest time starts in May, by August

all grain will have been harvested, threshed, winnowed and stored or sold. The chaff and husks provide the fuel for family evening bonfires during the coldest months. Not only agriculture follows the seasons, but construction work does too. Bricks are made between planting and harvesting, when water is still plentiful. Actual building will take place between harvest and planting, to make sure buildings are ready before the rains. There is often an annual food shortage between December and April.

For further details, the Diocese of Kondoa now has its own website here: <http://kondoa.anglican.org/>

How you can get involved

There are four main ways to support the Rochester - Kondoa Diocesan link:

1. Become a 'friend of Kondoa' and receive prayer requests and news updates.
2. Form a link between your parish and a parish in Kondoa
3. Provide financial or other support to one of the projects that are underway in the Diocese. These include:
 - Theological education
 - Sponsorship for individuals being externally trained at Msalato College, Dodoma
 - Sponsorship for individual students at the Kondoa Bible School or general support for the Bible School
 - Agriculture – various such as beekeeping, equipment purchase, drought resistant maize project, 'Farming God's way' training
 - Women's Empowerment, this project is run by the Kondoa Mother's Union
 - Bishop Justus Vocational Secondary School, Chemba to provide young people with skills and a trade
4. Simply send a donation to the General Fund for the Bishop to use at his discretion for the benefit of the Diocese

Building the Friendship

As well as providing practical support, and sharing in praying for each other, the main pillar of the partnership is, and will continue to be, friendship. Developing friendships takes time, effort and compromise, even within the UK, so the added difficulties of geographical distance, language and culture, need to be recognised and negotiated to build deep and lasting friendships between individuals and groups. Within this section of the Handbook, we have collated advice from individuals and groups who have lived in or visited Kondoa, but please feel free to contact anyone on the Kondoa Partnership Groups (contact details are in the Contacts section) for further advice, or attend a Kondoa morning, usually held once a year. We share advice not only from our successes, but from our mistakes too.

Friendship is built on regular communication. Modern technology is helping with this, as is the increasing telecommunications infrastructure in Tanzania. Many people will have mobile phones, and we have found that texting is the easiest form of communication, as actual phone calls rely on a good connection and a good level of English or Swahili. Increasingly, people will have WhatsApp and are able to send messages for free, which has greatly assisted communication and can send pictures as well. Letter writing is a great way of sending a longer message. Send via the Cathedral (The Church of the Good Shepherd, PO Box 68, Kondoa, Tanzania) and it will take up to two weeks to arrive. The cathedral staff will put the letter on the appropriate bus to go to the village it needs to get to.

Of course, meeting each other face to face is the most effective way to begin and develop a friendship. For more than ten years, groups and individuals from Rochester Diocese have visited, and even lived, in Kondoa and have built up a wealth of experience to facilitate a successful visit so we include this advice in the following section.

Visiting Kondoa: A Best Practice Guide

Visiting Kondoa when deciding whether you would like to support the Diocese, through projects, a partnership, or simply by praying, has many benefits both for yourselves and for the people of Kondoa. Seeing Kondoa with your own eyes will help you to better understand the context and the challenges people and the Church face. You will be able to meet and greet the communities and the leaders of these communities. It is a great privilege to be with our brothers and sisters, listening to and joining in with their worship, and of sharing each other's stories. There is also an opportunity to just spend time with your travelling companions, with people from other cultures, and with God.

Travelling to Tanzania and Kondoa is relatively easy, as this quick summary shows:

- Flights - Heathrow to Kilimanjaro (Arusha) approx. 10 hours *KLM, BA, Qatar, A.C*
- Internal Travel 6-hour road trip to Kondoa, in Land Cruisers, which can be organised by *Takims*
- Accommodation - hotel in Arusha / New Geneva Hotel in Kondoa or the Catholic Guest House, including some meals
- Visa from Tanzanian Embassy UK
- Variety of inoculations and malaria pills (speak to your GP at least three months before leaving)

However, before you plan your trip, we ask you to consider a few other aspects which will greatly enhance the fruitfulness of your trip, both for yourselves and for the people you are visiting. It is important to remember that we are not only representing ourselves, but our local church, Rochester Diocese and in turn the Bishop of Rochester, therefore cultural awareness and respect for local customs is important. What we may think old fashioned, or out of date still often has credence in Africa and it is not our place to change it or to fight against it. We also need to remember that Kondoia Diocese is predominately Muslim which as we are well aware has more traditional dress codes. If our brothers and sisters in Christ in Kondoia are going to be missional towards Muslims it helps their efforts if we are also respectful and do not reinforce stereotypes of ourselves. After all we also represent Christianity in the west!

And now for some greater depth:

1. We recommend you obtain a good guide to Tanzania to give you geographical, health and safety, historical, cultural, and helpful insight and advice, including language. We have found the Lonely Planet's guide to Tanzania very helpful.
2. Please keep the Kondoia Partnership Group informed of your proposed dates and an outline of your itinerary as soon as you have them. Before you depart, please send an itinerary and details of your emergency contact numbers to the KPG. This information is not because we wish to control what you are doing, but because amongst us we may have expertise that would be of benefit, and it may be that we need to contact you during your visit.
3. Before agreeing dates and itinerary with your partnership, please liaise with the Bishop of Kondoia to enquire whether it is convenient for you to visit. The Bishop's staff will be able to advise also on travel and accommodation or may have other helpful suggestions to make.
4. Gain clarification before you go regarding the arrangements for, and payment of, your transport, accommodation and meals, and any expenses that may occur whilst there.
5. If accepting transport from a host please offer to cover their costs. Also, if accepting hospitality from a village or school it is good etiquette to take gifts and/or make a donation towards the costs they have incurred. For a large celebration including sodas and lunch then £30 (TSh100,000) is a good guideline. This should be done through one of the Bishop's staff who is accompanying you, as it could be very awkward for a Tanzanian to accept payment for hospitality. Any physical gifts (such as tennis balls, pictures, etc.) should be presented during a church service or at another formal event. Again, be guided by the Diocesan staff on when to do this.
6. Please do not invite visitors to UK without first enquiring of the Kondoia Partnership Group and the Bishop of Kondoia. Expect to pay all their expenses. Please be aware that a visa can be difficult to obtain.
7. Visitors from Rochester may at times have different approaches to the situations they meet whilst in Kondoia. It should go without saying that all visitors should give a helpful Christian witness and example, showing honour to our partners and their values, and seeking to resolve any conflict with humility and respect. Be aware that as a visitor from the UK your words and actions carry much more weight than at home.
8. Please be aware that homosexuality is illegal in Tanzania and punishable by a prison sentence of up to 14 years, and various corporal punishments including caning. If you or someone in your group is in a same-sex relationship, please do talk to Beth (see Contacts) who lived in Kondoia for 4 years.

9. Be wise with whom you share your personal contact details.
10. As friends or partners, you will learn and receive much – appreciate, and share your testimony with others when you return.
11. Be wise in what gifts you take, how you distribute them, and what their impact on the local economy will be. Seek the advice of the Kondoa Partnership Group if in doubt.
12. **Dressing Appropriately:** As a visitor to the Diocese you are not only representing your school/ church but also the Diocese of Rochester and a partnership that has been built over the course of 10 years. Dressing appropriately shows respect for the local people and their culture, and enables mutual respect, an important foundation for any relationships you hope to build. What is deemed appropriate varies from the village, to the town and to the city. If in doubt dress on the reserved side. What you wear outside of Kondoa Diocese is completely up to you. Whilst within the Diocese we would ask that you endeavour to adhere to the following guidelines:

In general:

Men should wear trousers and women should wear skirts/dresses at least below knee length i.e. it still reaches the centre of the knee when you sit down, or loose trousers. - Tops and bottoms should always overlap. Please ensure a gap doesn't appear between the bottom of your top and the top of your skirt/trousers when you bend over.

- No shorts or tight-fitting trousers for men or women.

- Men should wear a proper t-shirt, polo shirt or shirt, not a tank top – they are used as underwear.

Women should avoid low cut or strappy/vest tops. Tops can be sleeveless, but they should cover the tops of the shoulders and longer tops are preferable.

- Avoid wearing plain, rubber or plastic flip flops, instead wear sandals or flip flops with some decoration

Note: Tanzanians use plain flip flops in the bathroom so wouldn't wear them out and about!

In a village

- Women should wear a skirt/dress that is mid-calf length or longer.

- All tops should have sleeves.

- If women are wearing trousers, they should wear a long top that covers their bottom or a scarf/khanga should be wrapped around.

- Women should avoid wearing long hair down, it should be tied up.

In Church

Tanzanians wear their "Sunday best" to church so please reflect this in the way you dress.

- Women should not wear trousers.

- Men should wear a proper, collared shirt and smart trousers; and proper shoes rather than sandals.

13. **Food** Hospitality in people homes, and in the churches, are very important in Tanzanian culture, and therefore you will not go hungry, though others may, once you have left! It is rude to refuse food, or not to eat it. You may have a number of meals each day, so eat small. Refusing seconds is acceptable, but should be done with a smile on your face. Vegetarianism is not really understood in

Kondoa, but people who are vegetarian have been able to visit and eat, but normal vegetarian substitutes are not available, so dietary supplements are advisable. If you or anyone in your group has an allergy you will need to plan carefully (there is no Swahili word for allergy).

14. On your return, please write a report of your visit and send this to the Chair of the Kondoa Partnership Group. This should include who went, how you spent your time, any commitments you entered into, any challenges or conflicts that occurred and whether/how these were resolved, and any advice that may be helpful for others visiting the Diocese, i.e. transport or accommodation.

Starting and Developing Your Partnership: Good Practice

If you, as a church, parish, school or community group, decide that you would like to build a partnership with a similar group in Kondoa, then the fun really begins! A formal partnership is exciting, encouraging and challenging! So, we have put together some tips on how to ensure the partnership is built on sound foundations to ensure that it will last and be fruitful for you and your partners.

1. Rochester Diocese is here to support you as you, your Parish, school or group explore options for a partnership within Kondoa Diocese. We use the term “Partnership”, but this covers simple friendship or supporting a particular project. The Partner Diocese Link Co-ordinator

(currently Mike Fawcett) or the Chair of the Kondoa Partnership Group (currently Sue Chalkley) will meet with you, explain how Partnerships work and discuss the many opportunities open to you. It may be possible for you to visit with another team travelling out to see for yourself and meet the villagers/school/parish before making a decision.

2. Should you decide to move this forward, it needs to be understood that any Partnership needs to be sustainable. It is Good Practice therefore, that such a Partnership should have the support of your Vicar, PCC, Mission Committee (if you have one), and congregation or other governing body.
3. We recommend you form a Team (at least 2 people) to oversee the Partnership. They can help in communicating with your new friends, updating your congregation/school etc, perhaps fundraising for a particular project, and generally developing the Partnership, perhaps involving a visit at some stage.
4. Your Partner in Kondoa should also form a Team (again, at least 2 people) to be responsible for maintaining the Partnership. This team should include someone with English with whom you can speak, text, WhatsApp, or email from time to time. It is good to exchange regular requests for, and answers to, prayer.
5. Should you wish to include a Tanzanian national in a key role in the partnership or project (i.e. an agriculturist, medical professional, etc) who is not a resident of Kondoa Diocese, a CV with referees must be provided to the Bishop of Kondoa.
6. You may wish to formalise your Partnership in a written document, setting out the start date, your values and commitments to one another and points of contact. Take time to consider your joint aims and expectations, how you can best explore these with your potential partner, and put in place a time-span at which point these can be reviewed together, and action taken to adjust or re-energise your partnership.

7. As your Partnership develops, you may wish to involve your local community such as schools, toddler groups, women's or men's groups, Scouts/Guides, medical centres. We encourage this, but it needs to be well managed to ensure that Good Practice is adhered to. A Committee, chaired by a person from your parish, works well.
8. A representative(s) from your partnership committee will be invited to attend the Kondoa Partnership Group meetings, and may join the group as a regular member.
9. Regular updates on your Partnership, including any financial support, and travel plans should be provided to the KPG. Any issues should be reported as soon as possible to give an opportunity to resolve these quickly.
10. Individuals are most welcome to share their time and expertise with Kondoa Diocese. Please contact the KPG Chair to explore possibilities. You may wish to go short, medium or long term, share your professional skills, or serve in some other way. For example, we have had two people live in Kondoa working in the Head Office, in Education and Project Management, and further people staying a couple of months to teach at the Bible School, run seminars, set up accountancy systems, etc.
11. An annual celebration service of all the Overseas Partnerships within Rochester Diocese takes place annually on a Sunday evening in September, to which you will be invited. This gives an opportunity to meet others in partnerships and celebrate and encourage one another.

Financial and Other Gifts

Kondoa District is one of the poorest in Tanzania, with little in the way of infrastructure and resources having been put in over the years. It is also one of the most illiterate in the whole of Tanzania, bottom of the league table. The Diocese is young and when founded had no legacies or inherited monies, thus it struggles and is also ill equipped. Therefore, resources and money are often high of the agenda.

This is possibly the most difficult element of having a partnership with a group in a country which is financially poor. It is difficult to witness absolute poverty, so it can be tempting to give money. After many years of experience, and making mistakes, we humbly offer our suggestions for ensuring money is given wisely, openly and within the spirit of friendship.

Financial giving is a balancing act – to not be seen as a 'cash cow' yet responding to genuine need, in a realistic and viable way.

If you are visiting a village in Kondoa, within the formal part of proceedings a report is read out, and this will be translated for you. It will state the church/group's achievements, and then their aims for the future. This will include a project or projects, such as building a church, kindergarten or buying equipment for the youth choir. It will sound like a list of demands which may make you feel uncomfortable, feeling that they are asking you to fulfil their wish list. This is not the case. Often these reports are actually written for the Bishop to let him know what is happening in the parish. They are also intended to be aspirational. If you are formally given the report, and are asked to respond, the leader of your group should say that they are grateful for receiving the report, congratulate them on their achievements, and state that you will be praying for them as they make plans for the future, that God will bless their plans. The time to discuss whether you will respond financially is when you have returned to the UK and had the chance to process and review all that you have seen and experienced. If, for example, you notice the

church needs one or two pieces of sheeting to finish their roof and you want to pay for it, talk to the Diocesan staff accompanying you, who will tell you whether it would be appropriate for you to make such a one-off gesture.

Now the details...

1. Your Partnership may involve giving financial or material support – each Partnership is different and currently range from friendships, visitors sharing their skills, financially supporting a project in a village or church, to supporting a larger programme such as helping children in a community Compassion Project or a Tearfund's Church & Community Mobilisation Programme where villagers are envisioned and equipped.
2. Please do not raise expectations beyond what you can fulfil! Sometimes asking a question – “How much would it cost to put a roof on the building?” – may imply to your partners that you are thinking of paying for it and want to know how much it will be. Better to ask “How are you planning to”.
3. Please do not enter into any arrangement to fund an individual (whether for education, travel, health, housing etc) without first consulting the Bishop of Kondoa. Should support be agreed, please inform the Kondoa Partnership Group of the arrangements.
4. Please do not give cash donations to clergy, teachers or others you meet. Support given this way can be unhelpful: it is not accountable, and can create dependency, and may put the recipient in a difficult position. The Diocesan Staff in Kondoa are always happy to discuss how to best support an individual, when appropriate, including the giving of gratuities.
5. Should you agree to fund a project, ensure you discuss how this will be done with your group both here in Rochester and in Kondoa. Is this project a priority for your partners – or is it something you suggested? Ensure one person in Kondoa is responsible for the project; that estimates and quotes are gained; and invoices kept, together with guarantees for the work/equipment. Work out with that person when your finances will be released here - if it is a sizeable project it may be best to do that in tranches. Ensure you receive a progress report on how your funding has been spent before you arrange for the release of further funds. This ensures all monies are accountable and transparent. You may also wish to consider a time-frame at which point funding will stop, or be re-evaluated - for instance 3 or 5 years.
6. Please send funds to your partner through Kondoa Diocese. This ensures there is accountability and the Diocesan staff are aware of what is being funded. Rochester Diocese sends monies to Kondoa Diocese on a regular basis, usually monthly. Sending ad-hoc small sums can incur proportionately huge bank charges that greatly diminish the gift, so we recommend you send through Rochester Diocese. **All monies given through Rochester Diocese for forwarding to your partner through Kondoa Diocese MUST be accompanied by a Donation Form and a copy of that form sent to the Link Treasurer (see Contacts). This needs to be done every time a donation is made to ensure the funds are identified and forwarded efficiently.** (Funds that are sent directly to a village or school may well not be as well stewarded, or even be diverted by governing authorities.) The current Partnership Treasurer, is happy to advise.
7. In some circumstances you may wish to send money direct to your friends or partners. Please only do this with the prior agreement of the KPG and the Bishop in Kondoa and inform them, and the

KPG, when you are doing this and to whom you are sending the funds. Again, this gives accountability.

8. It is important that should you give a gift – such as a laptop or bicycle – that you make it clear whether you are giving it to the pastor/headteacher or to the parish/school. This saves any misunderstanding when the person in post moves on. It is good practice also to inform the Bishop of Kondo of your proposed gift.
9. Please keep the Chair of the KPG informed of the resources you are sending so they have knowledge of the support being given and received. If an issue arises then we can all work together to resolve it.

Summary: Questions that should be seriously asked / considered

- Buildings / Big Items
- Are these sustainable?
- What are they being used for?
- Are the costings thought out?
- Who is to oversee the project?
- Can they be repaired?
- Generous heart

(nb. £1.00 = Tsh 2,400)

Always remember: You should ask for accountability!

- Response to Donors – regular reports
- Financing Audit breakdown of costs, final spend
- Charity Commissioners ‘public benefit’

General Information

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Alerts

We recommend the FCO travel advice website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/tanzania>.

Sign up for email/text updates which are invaluable.

“When Helping Hurts”

We recommend “When Helping Hurts: Alleviating Poverty without Hurting the Poor ... and Ourselves” by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert, an excellent contemporary book on mission.

Compassion

It may be that your partnership has a Compassion project in the vicinity. Compassion UK runs projects centres around the developing world, linked with churches of various denominations, where those sponsored (from womb to university) can have a good meal, access education and healthcare and learn about Jesus. If you can obtain the Compassion project code number (TZxxx), then Compassion UK will be able to advise you of children awaiting sponsors in that project. This is a lovely way for your church or community to become involved on an individual basis.

Flights

Diversity Travel (0161 235 5400) and Key Travel (0161 819 8900) specialise in mission and charity travel and may be able to quote fares which may have better terms (and often prices) than can be found on the high street or on websites; for example, some tickets can be held for longer periods before payment is made, or may include enhanced baggage allowances. Check your airline cabin baggage and hold allowances, each international airline offers different weights and case allowances! Do consider putting a change of clothes in your cabin bag as occasionally baggage is delayed. As night driving is not recommended in Tanzania, accommodation may be needed on arrival, or the night before departure.

In-Country Transport

The only public transport available is buses and we would not recommend them until you are very familiar with Tanzania and the culture.

Most people in Kondoa travel by foot and bus, more and more people now have bicycles and motorbikes and also cars.

For us, as visitors, we use a company such as Takims Holidays <https://www.takimsholidays.com/> or the Diocese’s own land cruiser. Takims has become very experienced at looking after our groups over the years and their drivers are always highly professional, knowledgeable and helpful. They can help with translation when you are in the villages and are excellent guides in the Game Parks. The Kondoa Diocese also hires its vehicle to visitors, with a driver, and this is a good solution although it does not allow the same degree of independence.

Accommodation

There are hotels in Arusha, which are often handy for an overnight stay if your flight arrives late. These are generally at UK type prices. One example is the Impala: <http://www.impalahotel.com>. These can be booked direct or through Takims.

Kondoa has a growing number of hotels, which are reasonably priced and are best booked through the Kondoa Diocese or Takims.

Accommodation in the villages will vary widely. Please note that it is normal for two women to be expected to share a double bed. It is often best to send a small group out initially so that they can talk with local people to see what is available. Costs will be in the region of £10 - £15 per night.

Visa

A visa is required (currently £40) for UK passport holders. These can be obtained prior to travel in London through the Tanzanian High Commission or on arrival at major entry points. For ease, we recommend obtaining a visa prior to travel. We travel on a tourist visa, as we are going to visit friends and will not be undertaking work.

Documents

Keep your passport, e-ticket, itinerary, and insurance policy in a safe place. Keep with you a copy of these, along with your UK and Tanzania contacts, as well as emergency numbers.

Money

It is currently not possible to obtain Tanzanian Shillings outside Tanzania, however currency can be easily exchanged using £ or US\$ at the airport or major towns. US\$ are accepted in larger towns and hotels. Cash can be obtained through ATMs found in major cities using a Switch or credit card, but do watch the charges! Ensure you inform your cardholder you are travelling BEFORE you leave the UK.

Medical

Seek qualified medical advice at least 3 months prior to travel on the vaccinations which are recommended. You will require anti-malaria tablets. There may be a fee for prescriptions: some medical practices will waive their fee, and some pharmacies will give a discount, for a mission trip.

We recommend you carry with you a broad-based antibiotic – such as “Cipro” – for traveller’s tummy and other conditions as you may find yourself many hours away from a doctor and access to antibiotics! Your GP/clinic can advise. Don’t forget your regular medication and a good first aid kit.

Keeping in touch

Some places have electricity; some have Wi-Fi or access to the internet on their computers. Many don’t. Using the data on your UK mobile SIM can prove very costly. “WhatsApp” is good so long as you have Wi-Fi access! Texts are around 50p linked to your UK SIM. If your mobile is unlocked you can purchase a Tanzanian SIM: ensure the data, minutes and texts are “bundled” so you don’t lose them. You can purchase a Tanzanian mobile and SIM for under £20 but you will need to show your passport and have a photocopy of your passport ID page which they will retain. Consider setting up a blog or using Facebook or similar, to keep in touch with family, friends and prayer supporters. It can be helpful to appoint one person in the UK who can receive your texts and circulate on behalf of all the team.

Insurance

It is essential you take out travel insurance and that it covers pre-existing medical conditions.

Enjoying Tanzania

You may wish to visit some of the tourist areas such as Game Parks, Kolo (ancient cave drawings), Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar or even an Indian Ocean seaside town such as Tanga.

This can be planned in to your visit, either at the beginning or the end. Please speak to Mike Fawcett or Sue Chalkley who will be able to advise.

Contacts

Partnership Diocese Steering Group

Bishop James (Chair)

Bishop's Advisor for Overseas Links	The Revd Canon David Kitley	kitley@clara.net
Partnership Diocese Links Coordinator	Mike Fawcett	coordinator.pdsg@gmail.com
Partner Diocese Links Treasurer	Nigel Pope	treasurer.pdsg@gmail.com
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