

The Companion Dioceses of Rochester and Mpwapwa

Bulletin: Issue 8 – Autumn 2020

Welcome

This occasional Bulletin is intended to share the diversity and vibrancy of the friendship that exists between the Dioceses of Rochester and Mpwapwa in central Tanzania. Please be free to copy, circulate or display as you wish. Further information about the Companion Diocese programme can be found at <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/mission/overseas-partnerships/mpwapwa/>

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Latest News

The heat is building-up in the central highlands of Tanzania. The land is now very dry and dusty as the people await the refreshing autumn rains. To date there have been very few cases of **Covid-19** in the Diocese – and those have been in the larger towns. While heightened levels of hand washing continue, most other restrictions have been lifted, and the schools and colleges have re-opened.

Mpwapwa's **Diocesan Synod** has been postponed until early December, however the annual **Ordination Service** at the Cathedral is still going ahead as planned on Sunday 1st November.

Bishop Jacob is well, and is currently visiting many Parishes to undertake **Confirmation Services**. He expects to confirm 3,000 this year!

Some of the **Diocese's catechists** (Readers) have just completed a month-long training course, encouraging them in ministry and mission, with Bishop Jacob among their tutors. Here they all are with their newly issued certificates!



Mpwapwa Bank Loan Appeal for £19,500

£9,500 raised to date!

Bishop Jacob thanks friends in Rochester Diocese for their donations towards this Appeal. Receiving nearly £5,800 to help with their July repayment was "like a miracle".

A further £3,700 was sent out in October. Can we help them meet half their last two repayments, due in January and July 2021 by raising a further £10,000?

Many thanks to everyone who has made a donation - the Appeal is ongoing, and the link is <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/communications/news/an-an-appeal-from-mpwapwa.php>

Donations for any project in Mpwapwa can be sent to Rochester Diocese using the Donation Form at <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/mission/companion-dioceses/documentation/>

Please pray for ...

Bishop Jacob and his wife Mwezwa; the Diocesan Synod in December, for vision and God's provision.

St Philip's, their new online courses, their residential students and tutors. For admin and accountancy support for the Principal.

For rain this Oct / Nov so that the ground can be prepared and seed sown.

That the number of Coronavirus cases will not rise, but that it will be defeated.

A good future for Queen Esther's School. For Mhaha Musa, new Headteacher, and his team.

Peaceful Presidential and General Elections on 28th October.

Our Link Co-ordinator, Stephen Ngailo; and for good communication between links and mutual blessing.

Tearfund's CCMP transforming lives in Mpwapwa.

St Philip's Theological College Christina Parry writes



Photos from St Philips Theological College Tanzania show its 'Garden of Eden' continues to produce amazing fruit and vegetables, improving nutrition as well as providing a valuable teaching facility. The low-tech irrigation system, installed in 2017, enables every drop of precious water to flow directly onto the plants, transforming barren scrubland into fields of hope. The drip feed system was funded by donations from St Marks Bromley. A real-time example of transformative action by Christians working together.

Could you sponsor a student?

Bishop Jacob is seeking a sponsor for Selina Makuya, wife of the Diocesan Secretary, starting a 3-year Certificate in Theology course at St Philip's. Fees are £600pa. If you are interested in sponsoring Selina, please could you get in touch with us at mpwapwa.cdsq@gmail.com



Bidborough Link Mike Fawcett writes

During our last visit we met with the Kibaigwa Disabled Association and learnt about the many challenges their members faced. We were given details of the specific needs of four of the ladies and funds were sent over to help them. The Kibaigwa Community Council were keen to make sure that things went smoothly and it has taken some time for measurements and fittings to be arranged in Dodoma for two of the ladies, and for a sewing machine to be purchased for another. Sadly, the fourth lady passed away earlier this year, and so we were asked if the funds sent over for her could be used to support her orphaned children, to which we were happy to agree. We are now exploring ways of supporting other disabled members of the community.

Photo shows Nelly Sendeu with the KCC Chair and Vicar of St Matthew

Queen Esther's School

We were saddened to learn of the death of Headteacher, Madam Kashangaki, in July. The Headteacher role has been accepted by Mhaha Musa, a teacher at the school for several years. The current roll of 65 pupils needs to increase greatly to make the school viable and Mhaha has already begun promoting the school in local primaries. QE won an award recently for being one of the top schools in the District for Form 4 national examinations last year. The girls and staff are currently planting crops to help provide meals, while selling excess to support the school. Recently a borehole was put in close to the local village of Chamahawi. This bore will provide water for both the village and the school. A donation towards teacher salaries, and to help buy a new photocopier and ink, has just been sent out. The new science block has recently been roofed, and work is ongoing on the new dormitories.

The newly roofed science block at Queen Esther's



St Stephen's, Tonbridge + Tearfund's CCMP

Villagers in Chinangali felt inspired to build a new church for their increased congregation. Here it is – paid for without outside help, but rather from tithe's from improved agricultural practices and new income generating projects thanks to CCMP. The roof and timbers were bought in Mkoka, another CCMP link community, and transported to Chinangali by tractor!

