

# The Companion Dioceses of Rochester and Mpwapwa

## Bulletin: Issue 9 – Spring 2021

### Welcome

We hope you enjoy reading this Bulletin. If you would like to be added to our new "Friends of Mpwapwa" circulation list, please email us at the address below to receive Bulletins and other updates.

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### Latest News

The situation in Tanzania regarding Covid-19 is of concern – a further 3-days of prayer to overcome the virus was called at the end of February. Many are dying in the cities from "respiratory" disease, and people are fearful and confused. Their Government are recommending herbal remedies, and have no plans to vaccinate the population. No Covid-19 figures have been provided to the WHO since April 2020.

Tearfund's CCMP is going from strength to strength. Using new methods of farming taught by CCMP, the Area Dean of Mkoka has bought his own motorbike from the increased income from his 2020 harvest!

With the help of friends in Rochester, Mpwapwa's bank loan repayment for their buildings was met in January. This leaves their last repayment, due in July. Donations are still most welcome!

Mpwapwa's Hilux vehicle is a workhorse for the Diocese, moving people and goods around and needs a substantive service. Mpwapwa needs to raise £2,000 to get it back on the road. Could you consider making a donation?

**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/>**



With no visits for over a year due to Covid-19, and none planned for 2021, our links remain strong thanks to email, WhatsApp and Zoom.

Bishop Jacob sends greetings to all in Rochester Diocese and assures us of their prayers for us.

At their Synod in December, +Jacob announced his intention to retire in August 2022. The process to select a new Bishop will start in February 2022.

+Jacob will soon start a season of visitations, spending several days in each Deanery to share the vision for the Diocese agreed at the Synod – including rolling out CCMP, and setting up an NGO to oversee delivery of health, education and social services. This summer he will walk the 250km from North to South of his Diocese to help raise funds for this vision.

### Please pray for ...

Bishop Jacob, his family and Diocese, Rev Canon Agripa and all at St Philip's, the activities in this Bulletin, and for our Link Co-ordinator, Stephen Ngailo. Please also pray

- for the Tanzanian Government to be guided to make the best decisions for the people and for a vaccination programme to be allowed;
- for all those living in fear of Covid-19, and those caring for, or grieving the loss of, loved ones;
- for good hygiene practices and social distancing to be continued;
- for a good harvest this and next month, providing enough food for the coming year, so that malnutrition and starvation do not make this current situation even worse;
- for Mhaha, staff and pupils at Queen Esther's, for more girls to be enrolled;
- good communication between each of our links, and continued sharing of resources
- that Mpwapwa will be able to meet their July bank loan repayment and that the buildings will generate much income.



## St Philip's Theological College Christina Parry writes

Principal Agripa reports exciting curriculum developments. Last Spring a great effort was made to revise the syllabus for Practical Theology, which the college immediately adopted and started to use. This new curriculum has been designed to make use of the practical resources at the college, and to teach the positive impact the pastor can have on community development and for the environment. The syllabus was later approved by The Board of Trustees and the House of Bishops who met at the college in Autumn 2020 - the first time for many years. This gave a welcome opportunity for St Philips to showcase their work to the Bishops, and obtain positive backing from these senior clergy from across the Province. The Provincial Academic Board is now challenging the college to revise other parts of the Diploma syllabus, and to consider possibly introducing degree level studies.

The Spring 2021 semester began in February with the usual thanksgiving in the Chapel. Economic downturn in the wake of Covid-19 has affected church finances generally, so student numbers are currently down to just 50. The ambitious distance learning programme however continues, currently 10 students are studying remotely. Finances are precarious, and we pray for the college as it struggles with new technology and the effects of reduced funding.

## Crockham Hill with St Michael's Kongwa and Mkwala Primary School Mike Court writes:

Rev. Sue retired on 31st January, and Reverend Ali Cooper was licensed on 3<sup>rd</sup> March as the Interim Priest-in-Charge at Crockham Hill.

Holy Trinity and Crockham Hill Primary School are hoping to support Mkwala School in Kongwa town by contributing to the repair of a defective water tank which stops the School from receiving supplies of safe water. They are also investigating the possible provision of a borehole as an independent water supply for the School.

Holy Trinity sponsor Jeremiah Isaak (opposite) as a Diploma student at St Philip's Theological College. He writes regularly to us, and ministers in Kongwa Prison, where +Jacob confirmed 15 prisoners last autumn. Neema Zakayo, who was also sponsored by one of our congregation, graduated on 7<sup>th</sup> June with a Certificate in Theology. She has returned to her Deanery in Mpwapwa Diocese to serve as a catechist (teacher/lay leader) for one year before being Ordained.



## Fawkham & Hartley

Calligrapher, Jan, kindly donated her 2020 fees to fund school uniforms in their link village of Lukole. So far 3 girls, selected by the pastor, have received new uniforms and are now attending Kibakwe Secondary School. Letters of thanks have been received by Fawkham and Hartley. Here is one of the girls in her new uniform! (photo with permission)



## What a difference £50 makes – 3 inspiring stories

### St Stephen's Pre School



A gift was given to their link school, Nolini Primary, from the proceeds of their Summer fair. The school chose to install additional hand washing facilities so the pupils could easily wash their hands with soap to keep them safe from Covid-19.

## Shoreham Village School

have sent a gift to help equip the new science classrooms at Queen Esther's Girls Boarding School. The new Headteacher at QE, Mhaha Mussa, has used the gift to have a new desk and chair made. Here he is showing them off!

QE did well again in the Form 4 national exams, and the roll is going up. There are now 76 girls!

