

The Companion Dioceses of Rochester and Mpwapwa

Bulletin: Issue 10 – Summer 2021

Welcome

We hope you enjoy reading this Bulletin. If you would like to become a "Friend of Mpwapwa", please email us at the address below to receive Bulletins and occasional email updates.

Videos, photos and Donation Form are in our [Dropbox](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/iovqfmwyyjiom0/AAC1QTbM5BRVh8QVB-JCaoa?dl=0), <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/iovqfmwyyjiom0/AAC1QTbM5BRVh8QVB-JCaoa?dl=0>

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Latest News

Following the death of President John Magafuli in March, Tanzania's Vice President – Samia Suluhu Hassan – was sworn in as President, becoming the only current female leader of an African country. She has now set up a Committee of experts to advise on Covid, reopened some media outlets closed by her predecessor and has already visited Uganda and Kenya.

Mpwapwa's last instalment of their bank loan for the income generating buildings around the Diocesan Offices is due soon. At the moment £3,000 is still outstanding to make the buildings 100% owned by the Diocese. The rental income will help support Diocesan initiatives. Thank you to everyone who supported them in prayer or donations.

In the Spring edition, we reported that Mpwapwa's Hilux vehicle needed a substantive service. This was duly carried out, and with £650 from Rochester to purchase new tyres, it is now back on the road, moving people and goods around the Diocese.



The serviced Hilux with new tyres and 4 very worn out old tyres!



Due to Covid-19 restrictions, sadly none of Rochester's Companion Diocese Bishops were able to travel to UK for Bishop James' retirement events.

Bishop Jacob has recently spent time in all 13 Deaneries sharing the Synod's resolve to roll out Tearfund's Church & Community Mobilisation Process across the whole Diocese, and their plans to set up an NGO to oversee delivery of health, education and social services. In August he will be walking the length of the Diocese – 250Km – to raise funds.

+Jacob and Rev Canon Agripa joined both +James and +Simon and link reps for our Mpwapwa Group Zoom meeting in June. You can view their videos and our Powerpoint for the meeting in the Dropbox.

We hear that Covid cases in the Diocese are lower than earlier this year, masks and handwashing are routine, and the country is open to receiving vaccines.

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 President Hassan and her Government
- give thanks that the post-Christmas Covid wave has reduced; for helpful guidance; and for a vaccination programme to be introduced
- for Mhaha, Monica and staff and pupils at Queen Esther's. Praise God the roll is now 80 girls
- for good communication between each of our links, and for the continued sharing of resources
- for provision for the roofing of the new Cathedral Compassion Offices, so their old Office can be returned to the Diocese

St Philip's Theological College

Congratulations to the 13 Diploma students who graduated on 6 June, alongside students from other courses. This is a huge achievement under very difficult circumstances (resulting from Covid-19) for both staff and students.

Among the graduating Diploma students were Jeremiah and his wife (sponsored by Crockham Hill) and Dandy (sponsored by St Mark's Bromley). Dandy's research project was on "Agriculture for Church Development – a case study with special reference to the drip feed irrigation adopted at St Philip's Theological College". The drip feed system was sponsored through St Mark's and is now helping to water tomatoes and vegetables in the greenhouses at the College, creating much interest and awareness of drip feed irrigation further afield. If you would like to sponsor a student - £600/min x 3 years – please contact us.

Rev Canon Agripa shared with us in April that all his pigs had to be destroyed following an outbreak of swine flu - the income from the pigs was to have paid for his children's university and school fees. **Thanks to everyone** who responded so generously to his plight. All the donations have been received by Agripa and we can report that his children's school fees have been paid and he and Agnita have been able to start new income-generating projects – they already have 11 pigs; 4 rabbits and 150 chickens!



St Stephen's, Tonbridge: CCMP

The maize and sunflower harvests have been good in the Diocese this year. The groundnut harvest, a significant crop across this region, has unfortunately failed due to disease. CCMP workshops continue regularly throughout the link villages, training Facilitators and Pastors. There are currently 12 Self Help Groups, with a goal of having 50 by the end of this year. Each group has 15-30 members who meet weekly to study the Bible, and work together on income-generating projects. Each group runs a self-funded micro-finance scheme, enabling loans to be given to members to start new projects.

Leah, a Facilitator in Matongoro, shared her testimony when we visited in 2019. She now has health cover, improved food, clothes and better housing – paid for through Leah and her husband applying the CCMP training on their new smallholding. +Jacob recently made Leah a Catechist to serve in her local church.



Crockham Hill: Kongwa and Mkwala Primary School

Crockham Hill are funding repairs to Mkwala School's existing water harvesting system, and installing a borehole!

This project will provide safe water for the 1,000+ pupils to drink, wash their hands, and flush the toilets. The water will also be shared with the local community. Funds to start the project have just been received by Mpwapwa. The project will help the church, school and community work together.

Huge thanks to Crockham Hill, and best wishes for your fundraising initiatives!

Queen Esther's School – is now one of the top schools in Dodoma Region by Form 4 results! Friends of Mpwapwa have donated funds to pay for additional tuition, books, and to start a goat project! Following an urgent request £650 was raised to help renovate their main toilet block. The work was completed quickly, so the girls had the new toilets in place when they returned for the new term early in July. Well done Mhaha, Monica and staff!



The **Cathedral Compassion project's** new office is progressing well. The staff and parents have worked tirelessly – funds are however now needed for the timbers and roof sheets, about £4,000. Donations for this or any Mpwapwa project can be made using the form in our Dropbox.