



The Companion Dioceses of Rochester and Mpwapwa

Bulletin: Issue 17 – Autumn 2023

Welcome

We hope you enjoy reading this Bulletin – please share this with others who might be interested in what’s going on in Rochester’s Companion Diocese of Mpwapwa, in central Tanzania.

Donations for Mpwapwa in general or any projects can be made quickly and easily by going to <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/mpwapwa2023>. We would however encourage substantial gifts to be given using the Companion Diocese Donation Form as no processing fees are payable on such donations.

Do please email us on the address below if you have any questions, wish to become involved or to give feedback on the Bulletin.

The two of us are very much looking forward to visiting Mpwapwa and St Philip’s this November!

Sylvie & Stephen Barbor
Co-Chairs, Mpwapwa CD Group
mpwapwa.cdsg@gmail.com

Latest news

It was lovely to see some with links with Mpwapwa at the Celebration Service of our Overseas Links on 24th September in Snodland. The focus of the service was Estonia, with Bishop Jonathan reflecting on his August visit to both Kondoa and Mpwapwa. Bishop James Langstaff was presented with a special award by Archbishop Urmas in acknowledgement of the depth of his contribution to Rochester Diocese’s relationship with the Church in Estonia.



Please note - the Overseas Links page of Rochester’s website has recently been updated – go to <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/about-us/overseas-links/>.

Bishop Elect Luzineth Kingamkono receives the gift of a pectoral cross from Bishop Jonathan



Bishop Luzineth Kingamkono became the 4th Bishop of Mpwapwa when he was consecrated and enthroned at All Saints Cathedral on Sunday 27th August. He is looking forward to strengthening the ties of friendship between our two Dioceses and sends greetings to all Friends of Mpwapwa.

He is currently travelling throughout the Diocese, visiting parishes. Please pray for strength and stamina during this time as he Confirms many and meets pastors and congregations.

On 15th October he visited Queen Esther’s School where he confirmed some of the girls.

Read about Bishop Jonathan’s first visit to Tanzania here <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/bishop-jonathan-makes-first-visit-to-tanzania.php>

As poor rains hit the harvests again this year, helping communities gain knowledge about water management under the “Every Drop is Precious” Project at St Philip’s is making a real difference. Farmers in Self Help Groups attend a workshop there, and then the team make a site visit. Advice is given, and if all agree, the team will help install equipment (water butts, micro piping etc), the value of which is repayable over 3 years, enabling more loans to become available.

If anyone would like to donate to the fund from which loans to farmers can be made, please go to <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/mpwapwa2023>.

Under the “Public message of Support” comment box, please indicate “Loans for Water Management”. Many thanks.

St Philip's Theological College, Kongwa

Rev Canon Agripa sends his greetings to you all! St Philip's now has 65 students – an increase over previous years. Four of those students are receiving bursaries from Friends of Mpwapwa – 2 are in their 3rd and last year; and 2 in their first year. Thanks for those who responded to our plea for support in the last Bulletin!

Jeremiah and Mapenzi graduated 2 years ago, served as Deacons for the last year and have just been ordained as Priests. Such a wonderful testimony to the blessing of bursaries!

Whilst visiting St Philip's, Bishop Jonathan was really impressed by the water management expertise they have built up, and the amazing transformation of scrubland to productive fields. He also presented Agripa with a Certificate to mark the outstanding work the College is involved with in helping transform religious beliefs and cultural attitudes towards those with disabilities.



Agripa receiving the Certificate from +Jonathan

Chiddingstone / Bondeni Primary School

Harvest Festival this year was led by Year 5 pupils and focussed on their link school, drawing on what they have learned over the previous year. Over £1,000 was raised for Bondeni – which will enable sports equipment, stationery and desks to be purchased for the pupils! Well done Chiddingstone!



A prayer board, reminding the pupils of their link with the school at Bondeni.

Queen Esther's

School have received the Government Licence to enrol boys from January!

We pray that many students will be enrolled, enabling the school to become self-funding and not reliant on the Diocese for financial support.

The latest photo of the new science lab! A fabulous £1,000 has been raised on-line to-date for the Mussa Mhaha Memorial Fund which supports this project!



Shoreham / Chunya:

Rev Di Rees writes:

When we visited in 2018 we gave some money so they could make bricks for the new church they were building ... since then they have built a completely new church with Shoreham giving them some money towards the roof a few months back. Chunya had already raised 4 times the amount we gave them for the roof. It is an amazing achievement - 52 iron sheets to go!



St Joseph's Chunya, new Church

St Stephen's Tonbridge: 10 communities around Matongoro

The Project is going well, continuing the Church & Community Mobilisation Process that was started with Tearfund and now, with their withdrawal from projects in Tanzania, being funded through Rochester. Facilitators and Self-Help Groups are being mentored by the Field Officer and attend "Every Water Drop is Precious" water management workshops being held at St Philip's Theological College.



At Matongoro Primary School, linked with Bishop Chavasse School (Tonbridge), the pupils have planted a garden of vegetables and trees to provide shade. During whole school Acts of Worship, the pupils at BCS learn about their link school and life in Tanzania.

A grant from Rochester's **Poverty & Hope Appeal** is enabling loans to be made to farmers in Self Help Groups to install water management systems.

Here are the tanks being taken from Dodoma to Mkoka, which together with drip irrigation piping will be set up by the CCMP Team enabling local farmers to improve their harvests. As the loans are repaid, more equipment will be purchased to help other farmers.

