

# The Companion Dioceses of Rochester and Mpwapwa

## Bulletin: Issue 7 – Summer 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

Bishop Jacob continues to recover from recent planned surgery undertaken in Arusha.

We are looking to 2021 at the earliest for visits.

The 2020 Annual Companion Diocese Celebration Service is yet to be rescheduled.

Tanzania has cases of Coronavirus but few in Mpwapwa Diocese. All schools reopened on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

**New Handbooks** (one about the Mpwapwa Link, the other for those planning a visit to Mpwapwa) are now available on our Diocesan website.

Funds from Rochester were sent out in April to enable Bishop Jacob's car to be serviced and have much needed new tyres. Grateful thanks have been received!



### MPWAPWA APPEAL

3 X £6,500 help needed for loan repayments

Bishop Jacob (above, with Stephen Barbor) has appealed to friends in Rochester to help with the repayments on a bank loan taken out in 2018. The loan had enabled Mpwapwa to purchase the buildings around their Diocesan Offices, premises which will in the future provide an income stream to help fund their mission and ministry.

Last year's drought, and now Coronavirus, has left Mpwapwa short of funds with which to pay their loan. Their need is now urgent, and an incredible £4,000 has already been raised!

If you would like to make a donation to this appeal, please visit the link below for more details:

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/communications/news/an-an-appeal-from-mpwapwa.php>

### Please pray!

For Bishop Jacob recovering from surgery.

For the CCMP Co-ordinator, Rev Canon Jackson, and for healing for his wife, Jean, as she receives out-patient cancer treatment in Dar es Salaam.

For St Philip's, for many new students to enrol on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, and approval for the new Practical Theology syllabus.

Praise God for a good harvest this year for both groundnuts and maize.

Praise God for the technology provision at St Philip's that enabled the Year 3 students to receive on-line tuition whilst the College was closed.

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

For a good future for Queen Esther's School.

And for the Presidential elections due in October this year.

## Life on hold Christina Parry, St Philip's Theological College's Rep in Rochester, writes

My diary for 2020 is a sad reminder of events cancelled due to the corona virus pandemic.

I was hugely looking forward to July and August, and acting as a volunteer at the 2020 Lambeth Conference, postponed to 2021. The Archbishop of Canterbury has now taken the important decision to reschedule the Lambeth Conference by a further year to the British summer of 2022. The conference will meet in 2022 in Canterbury. In the message to the Anglican Communion, the Archbishop has also announced that a wider programme will be developed before and after the event delivered virtually and through other meetings.

Some Tanzanian bishops had withdrawn from the 2021 Conference, as part of the African GAFCON policy decision to hold an alternative conference.

Archbishop Welby again: *'let us remember, that as we come together and share our wisdom, we will need to hear from the Spirit through each other to think and ponder and study, to worship and pray.'*

For now, it feels as though our links with the diocese, parishes and people in Mpwapwa provide our own 'mini-Lambeths'. The experiences I share with St Philip's college in Kongwa give me similar opportunity to take stock. I pray that for us all, that the future will bring fulfilment of some of the hopes that have had to be put on hold.



Canterbury Cathedral, one of the venues for the Lambeth Conference

## Queen Esther's School

in Mpwapwa reopened recently. The girls are gradually returning: the staff have had to take pay cuts. Please pray for Mhaha, acting Head, and others for effective management, increased roll and for the school, pupils and staff to flourish.

## Link News:



**Fawkham and Hartley's** gift for their link, Lukole, was used to provide a splendid door for their new church building.



Congratulations to two Mpwapwa students sponsored through Rochester Diocese who graduated from **St Philip's** on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Neema received a Certificate, and Mapenzi a Diploma, in Theological Studies.



A gift from **St Mary's Hayes (Bromley)** provided **9 sheets** of steel roofing for the Cathedral Compassion Project's new office



**St Stephen's Tonbridge** sent a gift in May to be distributed amongst the 21 pastors and lay leaders in their 10 link communities. A goat, soap, irrigation, fruit seedlings, carpentry tools were amongst the many items bought, reflecting the empowering teachings received through CCMP.

With congregations fearful of Coronavirus, weekly church income has dropped as many have stayed away. This has reduced both Pastor and Lay incomes, and also that of the Diocese – hence the Appeal from Bishop Jacob.