



The Companion Dioceses of Rochester and Mpwapwa

Bulletin: Issue 25 – Summer 2026

Welcome

This Bulletin brings news from Mpwapwa and is a snapshot of the deep friendships between parishes, schools and individuals in Rochester with those in Mpwapwa Diocese and St Philip's Theological College in Tanzania. More info is at

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/about-us/overseas-links/mpwapwa/> or contact me. Feedback welcome!

Do please use this Bulletin as a prayer prompt and be free to share widely. If you wish to donate to support any of the projects / Mpwapwa Diocese / or St Philip's in general, this can be done using the Donation Form on the website link above; using the QR Code below; or going to <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/mpwapwa2026>

Huge thanks to all who made a donation in memory of my beloved Stephen. The funds have been sent out and are being used to get their Hilux back on the road – including a new engine – and prioritised for CCMP use.

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Queen Esther's Secondary School



The borehole at QE is a huge blessing – providing reliable water for the students and staff and to irrigate the crops so more food can be grown on site!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the fence project – just over £8,000 was sent out in two tranches. Work was delayed because of the condition of the road up to QE after heavy rains, but now the fence is completed – the gates will be installed soon to finish the project.

The Diocese is promoting the school widely – please pray this will attract new pupils.



Bishop Luzineth sends his greetings to all sisters and brothers in Christ in Rochester and Friends of Mpwapwa. It's good to see him wearing his Episcopal cross gifted by Bishop Jonathan on behalf of Rochester at his consecration – almost 3 years ago!

There's plenty going on in the Diocese - please use the points below for prayer

- A site has been obtained for new Diocesan Offices – anyone who has visited will know they are in poor repair and the only meeting room is Bishop's Office. This is a huge project but will give space for staff, meetings and an office for the CCMP Co-ordinator.
- St Luke's Clinic – please pray for Dr Edwin and his staff as they tend to their patients, maternity and other needs and manage improvements to their facilities.
- Hadlow – are supporting a sewing / tailoring project and have sent out funds to purchase 4 sewing machines. They have also funded much needed desks for Idunda Primary School.
- A group of 3 staff and 15 pupils from Bennett Memorial Diocesan School visited Mpwapwa in July – they had a wonderful time!
- The Diocesan Synod takes place every 3 years. This year it is from 9-11 October. Please pray for their discussions and their time together.

St. Philip's Theological College, Kongwa



Graduation at St Philip's – 17 May 2026

Rev Canon Captain Agripa sends warm greetings to everyone. It was recently discovered that his kneecap was broken in the accident last May. He is receiving regular therapy in Dodoma and will have surgery to remove the metal in his leg in September. He is very grateful for your ongoing prayers and would appreciate continued prayer for complete healing and for the additional costs of treatment and travel.

Several parishes and Friends of Mpwapwa are providing bursaries for 6 students, including their families, to study at St Philip's this year. Fees for a student and family this year are £1,050.

The borehole continues to be a great blessing and enables the College to grow a lot of the food needed by the College. Excess is sold in the local market. And the closeby primary school at Mlanga is benefitting from the borehole too!



A workshop takes place around a demonstration plot

"Every Drop of Water is Precious" (EWDiP) is a practical expression of faith in action based at St Philip's. Through workshops it shows farmers how to collect and use water wisely to sustain their crops and strengthen their livelihoods. Agripa and his team work alongside local Government officers and community leaders, sharing their knowledge and experience. EWDiP is an element of CCMP (see Page 3) with both teams working together to bless communities which is really important in a land impacted by climate change.

A grant from Rochester's annual **Poverty & Hope Appeal** enables EWDiP to continue to deliver this training and through the use of loans to farmers they install drip irrigation equipment for ¼ acre – these then not only increase variety of crops that can be grown but serve as demonstration plots for workshops.

Drip irrigation has also been installed at Queen Esther's School and in Kibakwe, helping communities make the most of every precious drop.

Bishop Chavasse / Matongoro Primary

During their visit the teachers discussed how they might support Matongoro as there is great need. Helping with the outstanding water bill for drinking and hygiene, more desks for staff and pupils are top priorities that are receiving support now, and renovations to their nursery to attract more children.



Istead Rise / Compassion

Regular gifts have contributed towards the Office project at the Cathedral Centre and enabling a kitchen to be built at the Iyenge Centre. Thank you Istead Rise! Here is Stephen Ngailo with some of the little ones at the Cathedral Centre.



The Gospel in Action: Transforming Lives Through CCMP

For many years, St Stephen's Tonbridge has supported the Church & Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP) in the Diocese of Mpwapwa. Rooted in God's Word, CCMP equips local facilitators and small groups to help rural communities discover hope, work together and build sustainable livelihoods.

The impact has been remarkable. In ten communities, lives are being transformed spiritually, socially and economically. Families are starting businesses, supporting one another, growing in confidence, and becoming more involved in their local church. CCMP reaches into the community and is a blessing to those of all or no faith.

Now CCMP, including EWDiP, is expanding into two new deaneries in southern Mpwapwa: Kibakwe and Bereke.

This is an opportunity for others across Rochester Diocese to join St Stephen's in supporting CCMP. Additional dependable funding will enable the CCMP team in Mpwapwa to deliver more training and support as CCMP works towards becoming self-sustaining – and is rolled out into more Deaneries in time!

Additional support could contribute towards:

- training for more facilitators;
- workshops for local communities;
- mentoring new Self Help Groups;
- opportunities for sustainable income and lasting hope;
- more EWDiP workshops

The transformation goes beyond economics. As hope grows, families are better able to educate children, improve health, reduce domestic violence and build stronger communities.

This is the Gospel in action—God's love transforming hearts, homes and communities.

Will you join us?

Could you or your parish support CCMP with a one-off gift or a regular commitment for one to five years? Every contribution helps bring hope, dignity and the transforming love of Christ to communities in Mpwapwa.

Please get in touch with Sylvie (mpwapwa.cdsg@gmail.com) if you would like to find out more or support this vision.



CCMP launch in Kibakwe In June – the CCMP team is starting to train facilitators here and in Bereke.

Chiddingstone Primary School / Bondeni Primary

This friendship is such a blessing to both schools! Chiddingstone have a prayer display for their link school of Bondeni.

Recent fund-raising has been sent out and used to start building a school kitchen – its really difficult to concentrate on your studies if your'e hungry! Further funds will be used to add the roof

And so impressed is the Government with the improvements that the friendship with Chiddingstone has enabled, that they have provided two toilet blocks with disabled access – one for boys, one for girls, each with 5 cubicles. Fab news! The community worked together to gather stones, dig foundations and the holes for the toilets.



Work on the new kitchen has started and the fab new toilet blocks





You are warmly
invited to this year's

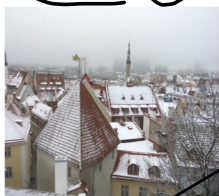


Diocese of Rochester
called together

Companion Diocese Celebration Service

Hosted by St Mary the Virgin, Riverhead with Dunton Green, London Rd, Riverhead,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2BP

Saturday 10 October at 6.30pm



Rt Rev'd Dr Jonathan Gibbs

Joined by

The Most Reverend Urmas Viilma,
Archbishop of Estonian
Evangelical Lutheran Church

All Welcome – Light refreshments will be served after the service

Parking: Parking for the church is along a road called Church Field, which is off Shoreham Lane. The postcode for the car park is TN13 3DU.

Update: 10 September

It is with much regret that Bishop Jonathan has made the decision to cancel the Celebration Service that was to be held on 10 October.

Archbishop Urmas – to be our special guest at the Service – now has to be in Estonia and fully prepared to take part in the Installation of Estonia's newly elected President, Ülle Madise, on 12 October.

Please remember Archbishop Urmas, the President Elect and the people of Estonia in your prayers.

Reflections on a Visit ...

Rev Mark Barker led a group visit of 4 from **St Stephen's Tonbridge** and 4 from **Bishop Chavasse Primary** in April – apart from Mark, all were 1st time visitors! A brilliant video has been produced by Jason, one of the St Stephen's group who lectures in videography, of expectations, time in Mpwapwa, reflections and impact of CCMP. Do take a look at it: <https://www.dailymotion.com/playlist/xdbevg>

Becks Hood, Headteacher (on behalf of the teacher group) writes: What struck us most about Matongoro Primary School was the commitment. The dedication of the teachers, doing everything they possibly could for their pupils. And the determination of the children—to learn, to succeed, to build a future. In one school, their motto was: "Education is more valuable than wealth." And you could feel that. It wasn't just words—it was lived out every day. And when you stop and reflect on that, it feels profoundly true.

What began as a visit to our link school—so that we could bring real experiences back to Bishop Chavasse—became something far deeper.

It became an immersion into culture, faith and human connection. A journey filled with powerful emotions: joy, pride, compassion, selflessness and a deep sense of community. Through music, through conversation, through shared experiences, we didn't just witness these values—we felt them. We lived them. And at times, we were truly moved to tears.



The group with Agripa, Israel (Diocesan Development Officer, Erasto (Project Officer) and Area Dean



The Bishop Chavasse group at Matongoro Primary School