



The Companion Dioceses of Rochester and Mpwapwa

Bulletin: Issue 24 – Spring 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 make a donation 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>

My beloved Stephen – with whom I Co-Chaired this Link for over 10 years – died peacefully at home with family by his side on 2 April, just weeks after being diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. Bishop Luzineth and friends in Mpwapwa have sent condolences on the death of their Lay Canon. With Bishop Simon's blessing, I will continue to Chair the link for the time being.

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Queen Esther's Secondary School



Crops at Queen Esther's using drip irrigation and water from their new borehole

The next priority of QE is to install a fence around the new dormitory block. A fence is a government requirement and will also give confidence to prospective parents that their children will be safe. Please pray for Monica, Headteacher, and all at QE. Work has started with the funds we've already sent over – donations welcome towards the £4,000 still needed to complete the project.

Just one of many photos of Servants of God across Mpwapwa receiving maize flour



Drought Appeal – Thank You! Bishop Luzineth and his team were able – through the generous response from Friends of Mpwapwa to the Hunger Appeal – to provide each of the 885 pastors, catechists and evangelists with 10kg of maize flour. This gift has encouraged and brought great joy to them and shows that God cares for them.

Church & Community Mobilisation – St Stephen's Tonbridge has supported the CCMP empowerment project for 12 years, working across 10 communities around Matongoro. A group of 4 are visiting in April, spending time in these communities and talking with the Diocese about extending support to two new deaneries in the south. Teachers from Bishop Chavasse School are joining that trip to visit their link, Matongoro Primary, and learn more about Mpwapwa.

Impact of Climate Change!

The rains arrived on Christmas Day in some areas – and there has been a lot of rain recently.

The group report that the landscape is beautiful - lots of green, and water!

Please pray for a good maize harvest in due course, and that there will be enough food to eat for everyone until the harvest is ready!



The **Annual Celebration Service** of Rochester's overseas links will be at **6pm** on **Saturday 10 October** at King Charles the Martyr Church, Tunbridge Wells. Rochester's Bishops and the Archbishop of Estonia will be attending – all are welcome!

St. Philip's Theological College, Kongwa

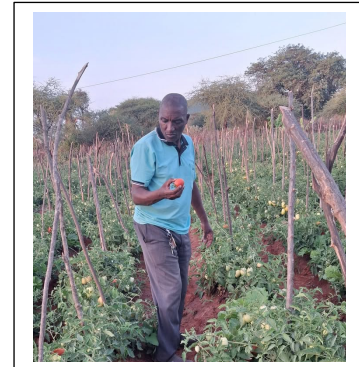


Agripa leads the Palm Sunday procession at St Philip's

Rev Canon Captain Agripa sends warm greetings to everyone. He continues to make steady progress in his recovery following last May's motorbike accident. Regular physiotherapy is helping to improve the movement in his knee and rebuild his strength. He is very grateful for your ongoing prayers and would appreciate continued prayer for complete healing.

These are challenging times for the College, which often operates on a very tight financial margin. Please do keep Agripa and the Trustees in your prayers as they seek wisdom and guidance in leading the College forward.

If any parish or individual feels able to offer a bursary to support a student, we would be delighted to hear from you. Both the Certificate and Diploma courses run for three years, beginning each August. In the second and third years, students' families are encouraged to join them, and as they usually no longer receive income from their home parishes, meeting the costs can be a real challenge. Fees last year were £900 for the first year, and £1,300 for years two and three when spouses are encouraged to join.



Principal Agripa in the Sang'anga Garden

The borehole continues to be a tremendous blessing and enables the College to grow a lot of the food needed by the College. Excess is sold in the local market.

The "Every Drop of Water is Precious" project is funded through the grant from Rochester's Poverty & Hope Appeal. Agripa and his team hold regular workshops for community leaders, Government officers and farmers, helping them learn how to collect water effectively and use it wisely to sustain their crops. They also support farmers with drip irrigation – simple bucket models or over 1/4acre plots, including at Queen Esther's School and in Kibakwe.

Thank you so much to everyone who already supports the students, Agripa and the College — your prayers and generosity is truly life-changing and a great blessing to the church in Tanzania.

Fawkham & Hartley / Lukole



Generous giving of £500 from Fawkham & Hartley has provided school uniforms, shoes and books to 10 girls nominated by their pastor. They had passed their national exams – without this support they would not have been able to enrol in Form 1 at secondary school in January. This has opened a door of opportunity for them, and for their families!

Chiddingstone Primary / Bondeni Primary

Chiddingstone's faithful prayer and fundraising for their link school has been wonderful, providing desks, equipment, new staff toilets and attracting Government funding for 2 new classrooms. Their latest donation went towards more desks and musical instruments for the students.

