

The Companion Dioceses of Rochester and Mpwapwa

Bulletin: Issue 2 – Autumn 2018

Welcome

This occasional Bulletin is intended to share the diversity and vibrancy of the links between our two Dioceses, and news from Mpwapwa. Please be free to copy, circulate or display as you wish.

More information about the Mpwapwa link can be found at

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/mission/overseas-partnerships/mpwapwa/>

Stephen Barbor
Chair, Mpwapwa CD Group
mpwapwa.cdsq@gmail.com

Latest News

Our friends in Mpwapwa Diocese send their greetings to all in Rochester. The harvest has been good: they are currently awaiting the autumn rains.

Work is being undertaken to extend the area around All Saints Cathedral in Mpwapwa by excavating into the hillside by hand and machine. A retaining wall needs to be built before the rains!

+Jacob is very grateful to all those who contributed to the cost of repairing his car recently. It is back on the road, but needs new tyres still.

The current volunteer Administrator at St Philip's Theological College retires in June 2019. See the website above for details.

Photo: new retaining wall at the Cathedral.



Celebrations

Mpwapwa Diocese recently held a celebration service at All Saints Cathedral. 6 Deacons were ordained Priests, including a woman from Zoissa Deanery. Thanks were given for +Jacob's 5 years leading the Anglican Church in Tanzania, and for the Diocese's recent purchase of the new income-generating buildings close to the Diocesan Offices.

Photo: the pastors with +Jacob



Prayer requests

Please pray for

- Bishop Jacob Chimeledya and his family
- Stephen Ngailo, Link Co-ordinator
- A new Co-ordinator to lead Church & Community Mobilisation Process in the Diocese
- All at Queen Esther's Girls Boarding School; the girls awaiting their exam results; for funding for the new science labs buildings and equipment
- For all at St Luke's Medical Centre, staff and patients; for the Diocese as it seeks to take it to hospital status.; and for funding for 2 new wards and toilets
- Rev Canon Agripa Ndatila, Janet (Administrator), tutors and students at St Philip's Theological College

Donations for any of the above can be made to Rochester DBF using the Donation Form available on the website.

Visits

Across our Companion links we seek to build strong and lasting friendships. These are strengthened through visits. In 2018 almost 50 from our Diocese visited Mpwapwa. Bishop Jacob visited Rochester in September for the Clergy Conference and the annual Companion Diocese Celebration Service. He also spent time with friends of Mpwapwa. Hadlow brought over 2 teachers from their link in Kibakwe. Here are tasters of just 3 of the trips!

We will be taking a group out on 15 May 2019. If anyone is interested in joining the trip please contact Sylvie and Stephen Barbor at mpwapwa.cdsg@gmail.com.

Shoreham

Rev Diane Rees writes (abridged, full item to be on website) Gillian, the Headteacher at Shoreham Village School, and I had an amazing, challenging, eye-opening and life enhancing trip, in so many different ways. The welcome we received in Chunya was extraordinary and deeply humbling. Shoreham parish, Shoreham Village School and St Michael's Prep School, Otford have been partnered with St Joseph's Church and the primary and secondary schools in Chunya. We have formed a WhatsApp group. They are updating us with regular photos showing us how the girls dormitories and toilets, and church building, are progressing.

One of the reasons we decided to explore establishing a partnership in Mpwapwa Diocese was because of the historical connection with a former son of a Shoreham Vicar, Verney Cameron. About 145 years ago, Cameron travelled to Tanzania to work with the great explorer David Livingstone. When he got there he discovered that Livingstone had died, and it was Cameron who arranged for Livingstone's papers and diaries to be sent back to England. He is the reason why we know so much about what Livingstone discovered. Cameron decided to continue his journey across Africa and was the first European to walk across Africa from East to West. One of the areas he would have walked through would have been what is now the Diocese of Mpwapwa, about 400kms from the East coast. When first crossing from Zanzibar to the East coast of Africa, the place that Cameron would have started his journey from would have been the seaport of Bagamoyo. Bagamoyo was at the end of the slave traders' route, which ran inland from there and goes past the Cathedral in Mpwapwa. Visiting Bagamoyo turned out to be one of the highlights of the trip; fascinating and sad.

A helpful article on setting up a school link is at [Gillian Lovatt-Young LinkedIn Article on Setting up a Partnership](#)



Books... and the baobab mural



Bp Jacob, Diane and Gillian at Bagamoya



The Bidborough Team

Bennett Memorial

Trip leader, Charlotte Grant, writes

During our trip to Mpwapwa last year, we funded the creation of a school library for our partner school, Mwanakianga Secondary School, purchasing shelves, table and chairs. We also painted a mural of a Baobab tree - each year students (and teachers!) are adding their handprints to represent the growth of friendship between Bennett and Mwanakianga. This year, students from Bennett got involved and donated books for us to take to the library - we took out nearly 700! This is an excellent addition to the school to support the learning of English, as all of their exams will be taken in English. We were also able to donate a projector to assist with teaching at Mwanakianga.

Bidborough

Trip leader, Mike Fawcett

Two years ago six women from Bidborough visited Kibaigwa. In October, six Men of Bidborough spent 9 days visiting primary and secondary schools, holding IT classes and cleaning up the Compassion PCs, meeting with the Kibaigwa Disabled Association, joining a Blink funded Environmental Workshop and joining the joyful worship at St Mathew's. There are many potential joint projects, which we are prioritising with the Kibaigwa Community Council. We were so warmly welcomed, enjoying the company of many old and new friends, and enjoying some truly gorgeous food (what I would give for one of those kitumbuas now!). Asante sana Mr Mogoile, Bahati, Alaska, Pastor Deuli, Mr Mwasikila and Issaya for making us all so welcome.