



Festo and Grace Kanungha

Link Letter no. 17 | November 2024

Contact details:
festoandgrace@gmail.com



Location: Britain



What we do: Supporting vulnerable community members through social enterprise Bodmin Way (Festo) and serving as a curate in St Petroc's Church (Grace)

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your ongoing support as we have been navigating a season of change. We are sorry that we have made you wait for this update – it was due just as Grace was ordained and we prepared to move house at the end of summer term.

But we can share with you that Grace did indeed get ordained a deacon in Truro diocese on 28 June and is now serving her curacy in the Bodmin Team Benefice, which comprises four parishes and five churches in and surrounding Bodmin, stretching over 26 square miles.

Three months in curacy is going well; so far a lot of time has been spent getting to know the benefice churches and faithful Christian folk. However, there was also a crash course in funerals over the summer as the church was called upon to take quite a number and therefore Grace is now fully fledged at taking funerals, the most precious of which was for a neighbour from Liskeard.

We have moved house and you can now find us in Wadebridge. The county of Cornwall isn't too big, yet Wadebridge feels quite different to Liskeard as it is closer to the coast and further from the moor. We had a great summer getting to know the new area, and have released a huge sigh of relief and are grateful for the answer to our prayers as the children are settling in well in their new schools: Zeph now in secondary, while William and Hannah continue on in primary education.

Each of us found it hard to say goodbye to Liskeard and our community there. We will try to stay in touch with friends and Grace was blessed to go and see the new vicar inducted recently, which marked the end of the journey she did with the church in transition as an ordinand. St Martin's church has been a strong support for Empowering the Future, Festo's charity in Tanzania, and we were happy to be invited back for their harvest festival to share the latest news.

Festo continues to work part time in B&M to help support our family, although now in the Wadebridge store. They have a different shift pattern, which means we see more of him and he gets more sleep!

Locally, Festo is working with Bodmin Way, a social enterprise that supports the well-being of the community within which the Bodmin Team Benefice ministers. Bodmin Way seeks to work with other agencies and hosts a community larder and several community groups, all with a focus on food poverty and food sustainability. It also has parish nurses and community health and well-being workers in a joint project with the NHS. Festo is involved with the setting up of a project called Flourish in Bodmin Community College.



Grace's ordination

Support Festo and Grace Kanungha:
churchmissionsociety.org/kanungha

**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



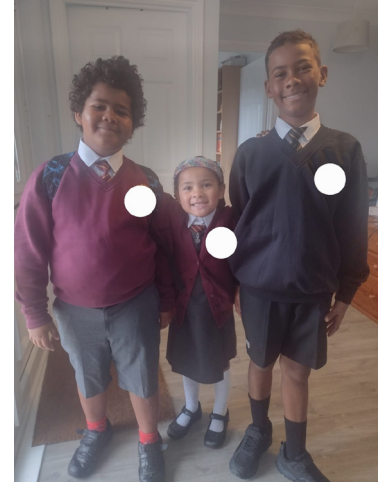
Flourish is a Church of England educational initiative, currently in its trial stage. The focus of Flourish is to meet the “missing generations” where they are (i.e. in school) and set up new worshipping communities in those places. Bodmin Community College is not a faith school, but has been inspired by this project and in particular the vision of Bodmin Way to establish a worshipping community with a focus on creation care and food sustainability. Festo will therefore be working with students on the school farm growing food and considering God in creation. The project is in its infancy and is taking some time to get going as school life is busy, but Festo will be spending two afternoons each week in the school working alongside and ministering to the students engaged with the project. It is exciting to be using Festo’s background in both education and agriculture as well as to see how well it links into Festo’s work with Empowering the Future.

Empowering the Future (EF) is the Tanzanian-based charity of which Festo is a founding member. It has a high priority on education regarding climate, including smart agricultural practices and looking at other ways in which young people and women in the region of Dodoma can be empowered to build a sustainable future. We now have a UK arm called Friends of EF and much work has been done this year establishing this charity, finding trustees, gaining charitable status etc. Some of you will know Stephen Hatch who worked with us at St John’s in Tanzania – he is also now based in the UK and has taken on being treasurer for Friends of EF, which we are grateful for.

In March EF were able to purchase two adjoining pieces of land, which was both a prayer and a miracle. Festo and Jemma, one of our members of Friends of EF, are heading over to Tanzania in November to take part in the planting of the land, now a demonstration farm. The hope is to demonstrate that it is possible to plant climbing beans alongside the maize. The beans will climb up the stalk of the maize and provide two harvests and two food sources at once. Festo and Jemma also hope to set out about starting a building project on the land, creating a multi-purpose facility to provide accommodation for visitors. We also want to have a flexible space that can be used for holding seminars and the Empowering the Future pre school.

We very much appreciate your continued prayers for our family. For Zephaniah we ask for prayer as he settles into secondary school life and education, for solid friendships at school and at church and for his learning as his education journey has been through more transitions than we would have liked. For William, as he misses his friends in Liskeard and starts to build new friendships in Wadebridge, for his faith journey as he begins to claim it as his own. For Hannah as she settles into her new school and friendships, that she would continue to live her faith out loud and continue to find joy in all aspects of life, regularly proclaiming that the day has been “the best day ever!” For Festo and Grace as we continue to navigate cross cultural living and serving God both in the UK and Tanzania, for God’s sustaining grace.

With love from the Kanunghas



Photos from top to bottom: Moving house; new schools for all; with friends this summer; Jemma at the Dodoma Empowering the Future demonstration garden.



Going further with Church Mission Society

Jesus never gives up. Neither should we. We live in a fractured, hurting world. It can be tempting to give up: on hope, on people, on the idea that things can ever change. Yet, Jesus invites us to follow him on a journey to the edges. Find out more at churchmissionsociety.org/jesus-never-gives-up

Please note that opinions expressed in link letters are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society.

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400. Church Mission Society is a mission community acknowledged by the Church of England. Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).