



Festo and Grace Kanungha

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Location: Britain



What we do: Supporting and resourcing local churches in their ministry to children and young people, working closely with St Martin's Liskeard

Dear friends,

Happy Christmas! We pray that you will all have a Christ-filled Christmas with your churches, families and friends.

We are looking forward to Advent, although Grace has already started with a Celtic Advent Journal (Celtic Advent started on 15 November). The small group (life group) we host in our home contributed towards the journal with a poem, based on 1 Thessalonians 4:14–16:

*Waiting now, to celebrate the birth of Jesus,
God made flesh to dwell amongst our humanity.
Waiting now, for lights, music, and celebration,
Filled with the hope and expectation of this season.
Waiting now, for my God who knows me,
Who sees my life and gets involved when I invite Him.
Each year I wait, and then I celebrate.*

*Yet what is this sound of trumpets?
Angels' song, hosanna cries, a splitting of the skies?*

*Waiting now, for the loud command,
Jesus my returning King.*

*Waiting now, for His sleeping ones to rise,
To enter His glory, of which they sing.
Waiting now for my name to be called,
To be swept up in a great cloud.
Trumpets blaring, Choirs of Angels singing,
Oh, what a great and glorious Final day!
No more waiting, the day of Jubilee has come.*

[tps://amzn.eu/d/eltaM8X](https://amzn.eu/d/eltaM8X)

The mission of life groups in our church is that they will grow, divide and multiply. Our group has been meeting together for 18 months and has grown to 13 members, and so we are ready to divide into two groups from January to make space for people new to the church or new to life groups to join. We have been a very happy and supportive group, growing together in discipleship; we are all in strong agreement with the mission of life groups but are sad to be divided and nervous about the new groups so would value your prayers.

Festo has been working on preparing our community garden, including restoring some donated benches. There have been some delays with the soil testing – it has been revealed that the soil is contaminated and although suitable for trees and flowers not for growing fruit or vegetables. Raised beds were already a part of the plan but have now become central to it. As winter has



Zeph and William at Blaze Light Party.

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



begun some of the work has paused, but please pray for the resources and volunteers to get this garden up and running in the spring.

This autumn we welcomed a speaker from Compassion to our church and have been delighted that several people from our congregation have committed to supporting children in the Dodoma region of Tanzania. This is part of Festo's vision for a link between St Martin's Church, Liskeard, and St Matthew's Church in his home village of Lamaiti in the Dodoma Region. He hopes that part of the link between the two churches will be a Compassion project and an emphasis on education.

Grace has had her head firmly in theology books since September, when she started ordination training. It is both challenging and wonderful. For our family, the juggle and balance of family/work life are easier, apart from during residential. It is an interesting and exciting time to be training with the Church of England, though also challenging. What is wonderful about [St Mellitus College](#) is that theology is done out of worship, which helps keep us centred on our loving Saviour.

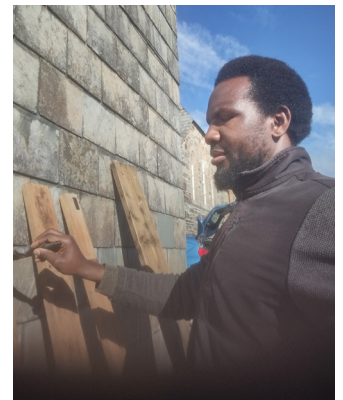
Zeph and William enjoyed our Blaze Light Party recently. It was an excellent outreach into the community. Blaze has been running as a weekly group for primary school-aged children since Easter and has been steadily growing with 25 regular members, but the Light Party saw 75 children attend, which was a real boost. Parents can stay in a parent's cafe area of the church with volunteers focused on serving and chatting with them, and many do. We are so pleased that children from across Liskeard are interacting with the gospel and that their parents are also hearing of it as they watch on. These same families link into other areas of the church's ministry and we are praying for faith conversations and opportunities to lead them to Christ.

In our last link letter we wrote about [TLG Early Intervention](#), a coaching programme we have introduced to the church and local schools. Recently Grace was invited to share our experience so far at a Bishop's study day and was so pleased to do so because we cannot praise this programme enough as a way of seeing children's and families' lives changed by the gospel of love. Any church can do it, all it takes is one coach, one child, one hour a week. Festo is coaching a child in one of our schools and is seeing a difference after only half a term. The headteacher of the school said this regarding the first child to start coaching: "TLG has blown me away. It has been a short time, but X's school engagement has been dramatically improved." Please pray for the work of TLG in Liskeard and across the UK.

As the year draws to a close and we prepare for Advent, we are also acknowledging that our family has moved on from the baby stage. Hannah (three) now has a big girl's bedroom, and we are donating our baby things to [Baby Basics](#). Seasons come and go – Festo hopes for winter to pass quickly due to the cold – but our prayer is that in each season we are able to dwell in it, meeting God in it and serving him in it. "Do what you can, where you are, with what you have" is on a sign (kindly given by a friend who visited on short-term mission) we have brought to the UK from Tanzania. It hangs over our family gathering place – the dining table – and is at the core of our mission. In Christ, we do what we can, where we are, with what we have.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With love, hope and joy, from the Kanungha Tribe.



Photos from top to bottom: Festo getting splatted at Blaze; Festo has been working on preparations for our community garden, including restoring some old benches; Zeph and William ready for Remembrance Sunday Parade.



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