



# Festo and Grace Kanungha

Link Letter no. 15 | December 2023

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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,

We are writing this while preparing for Advent, one of the biggest opportunities for mission for the local church in the UK. As a family we will be involved in welcoming our community of Liskeard into our church over the next four weeks, to celebrate Christmas and to remind them of the Christ Child. At Christingle on the first Sunday of Advent, we will be making Christingles and Christmas crafts, and meeting Father Christmas beneath our church Christmas tree before joining together in worship to remember that it is Jesus who has brought the light of salvation into our world. The Advent season will finish on the fourth Sunday (this year Christmas Eve) with our crib service, gathering families around Jesus' crib and reminding ourselves that as we step into Christmas Day, the ultimate gift we can receive at Christmas is the love of Jesus. We have taken to asking the children at the crib service to do one thing when they wake up on Christmas morning before diving into their presents: to thank Jesus that we can share in his birthday and in his love. We imagine that you too are preparing for similar missional engagements over this season so as we ask for your prayers for Liskeard we will remember you in our prayers.



*Together again after Festo's trip to Tanzania*

As we finish this year of 2023, we are looking ahead to 2024 and another transition as we move into curacy. The curacy will be in Bodmin, and we will be living in Wadebridge, seven miles away. After prayerful consideration we felt that not living in the parish at this time is right for our family even if it is a different way of doing ministry for us. Although it is Grace who will actually be the curate, we very much see mission and ministry as a family affair and so Festo has been talking with Rev Paul Holley, the training incumbent in Bodmin, about ways in which he can serve the church and the community as a CMS mission partner. Bodmin parish has a big social enterprise called Bodmin Way (<https://www.bodminway.org>), which Festo will serve as well as leading the Empowering the Future project in Tanzania. Therefore, we will remain as UK mission partners with CMS, with your financial support forming a stipend for Festo, enabling him to do the mission in the UK that God has called him to. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we continue to follow God's call to see lives transformed by the love of Jesus.

We last wrote in the middle of the summer. Since then Hannah has started school and has dived right in. All three kids had fantastic reports and parents' evenings recently and it delights us to see them growing

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



and flourishing. This is the only year that they will all be in the same school! We talk a lot about the next transition, and they appear to be processing it well, but we would appreciate your prayers for them, especially as it will become more real as we turn into the New Year. They love Christmas and there is a lot of excitement for all the activities over Advent and Christmas, and with five days still to go, the anticipation of the appearance of our Advent calendar is palpable. William continues to fill his brain with facts, most often about animals and wildlife, and regularly informs us of things we could never have known otherwise. Zeph has discovered cross-country running. He runs each week at school and has been to two meets so far, each time

finishing in the middle of the pack. We have discovered a need to work out together what it means for us to be a fourth culture family (UK, Tanzania, church, and our mash-up of all three making a fourth) and we are seeking some help through CMS to be more intentional in our conversations about our distinctiveness as a family – something for your prayers.

Festo's work at St Martin's continues to be challenging and fruitful. He has started speaking about his work at churches that support us, and the way that he shares his heart for God's mission is inspiring. He has recently been on a course with CMS and he is working out a way of combining his mission in Tanzania with his mission in the UK. Please pray for him as he grows in confidence in God's call on him here in the UK. Some of you know that he also works part time at B&M to help keep us going financially and his witness has not gone unnoticed by other staff. He was recently thanked for keeping up staff morale during a stressful period and he has noticed that colleagues seek him out to talk about stuff going on in their lives. At the end of December, we submit his next visa application. He is on the five-year pathway and has reached the halfway point. After this next visa, he can apply for settled status. Do pray for us as we gather documents and fill out forms amid the Christmas madness.

From our family to yours, we wish you a Merry Christmas and...

*May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.*

Love and prayers

Festo, Grace, Zephaniah, William and Hannah



**Photos from top to bottom:** William and Hannah enjoying Dartmoor; guess who's in fancy dress?; a moment to rest; getting prepared



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