A group of women and children are gathered in front of a brick church building. The women are dressed in traditional African attire, including patterned dresses and headwraps. One woman in the foreground wears a green top and an orange skirt. A young girl in a pink skirt stands next to her. In the background, other people are visible, including a man with a bicycle and a woman holding a child. The church is a simple brick structure with a gabled roof. The scene is set in a rural area with trees and a clear sky.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY MOBILISATION IN THE DIOCESE OF KONDOA



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*"The objective of Church and Community Mobilisation is to empower people to transform their situations, using their God-given resources in a sustainable and holistic way."*¹

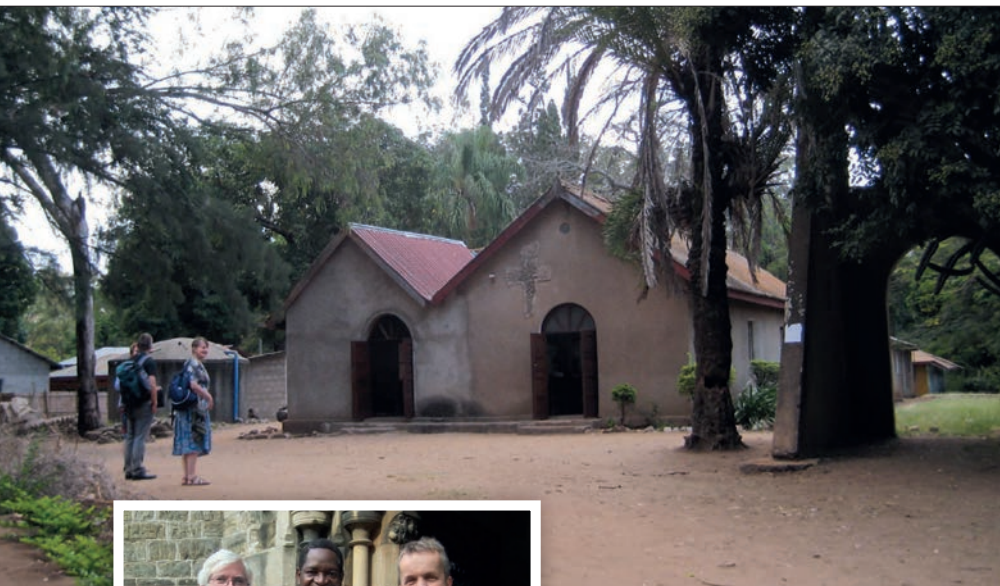
INTRODUCTION

The aim of this booklet is to inform you about the partnership between St James' Church, Tearfund and the Diocese of Kondoa in Tanzania. You will learn more about why we are supporting the Church and Community Mobilisation Programme (CCMP) within local churches in Kondoa - a different kind of development that is having a significant impact on poor countries around the world.

It's a process that starts with local churches and has proven to be one that empowers people and releases them from spiritual and physical poverty.



ST JAMES' CHURCH AND MISSION



Above: Kondo Cathedral
Left: Rev'd Canon Jim Stewart with Bishop Given
Gaula and Rev'd Wim Mauritz

"We look forward to further visits to Kondo and the growing friendship and fellowship they bring."

"St James' has a long history of support and involvement with mission. Over the years there have been a number of partners in various parts of the world. The partnerships have helped the people of St James' to know that we are part of a worldwide church and to learn from the very different settings of Christians worldwide. We hope that our prayers, support and visits have also helped our partners.

We have always wanted to respect the autonomy of our partners and to ensure that we are always supporting a local vision for the developments that have been taking place. With that in mind we are delighted to extend our partnership with Tearfund and the Diocese of Kondo by supporting the CCMP.*

The distance between Tunbridge Wells and Kondo has already been bridged by Bishop Given's visit to St James' and by the team that went out to Kondo in the summer of 2017. The distance is also being bridged by mutual prayer."

Rev'd Canon Jim Stewart

*Also known as Church and Community Transformation.

BECOMING A TEARFUND CONNECTED CHURCH PARTNER

"We are delighted that St James' Church has become a Tearfund Connected Church partner and is committed to building a meaningful and lasting relationship with the Diocese of Kondoa in Tanzania. In doing so your church will be able to connect with communities living in poverty, and to see their lives transformed.

As we share this journey together, we will introduce you to your partner and enable you to connect with them, following the progress of their work through the Connected Church updates as well as receiving prayer points.

We will also provide the opportunity to visit as a group, to learn more about the work and the communities you are supporting. We are certain this will inspire and enrich you as you also engage in reaching your local community here in the UK."

David Bloomfield,
Church Partnership Manager, Tearfund

tearfund



"Connected Church is Tearfund's way of linking churches in the UK with their church partners overseas."

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY MOBILISATION



Tearfund is a Christian relief and development agency, operating in more than 50 of the poorest countries around the world.

The CCMP was introduced in Tanzania in 1998, where nearly 19% of the population (9.5 million) live below the food poverty line, while almost 36% live below the basic poverty line.² This includes access to essentials like healthcare, shelter and education.

Poverty does more than exhaust, starve, trap and kill people. It destroys their sense of worth, limits their horizons and robs people of the chance to reach their full potential.

The CCMP inspires people with a vision to determine their own future, and helps communities to identify the individual challenges they face and discover the local resources around them that can be used to lift themselves out of poverty in a sustainable and holistic way.



*"CCMP empowers the church to become a steering force and motivating factor within the community to transform the local situation."*¹

THE NEED IN THE REGION OF KONDOA

Poverty affects rural areas the most and is highest among households that depend on rain-fed subsistence agriculture. The district of Kondoa is among the worst affected, with 90% of people employed in agriculture.²

Household incomes are usually less than \$1 a day – about 67 pence – which needs to cover the costs of food, healthcare and education for the whole family.² Environmental stresses can therefore have devastating impacts. Crops fail and livestock is lost. People eat less, sell their assets and are forced to stop paying for healthcare, or stop sending their children to school.

Bishop Given and the diocesan team have identified the CCMP as an important tool that churches can use to respond to the challenges they face, as it is a way of working that responds to both spiritual and physical needs, enabling whole-life freedom from poverty.

The CCMP is about changing people's attitudes and opening their minds. The diocese feels that by going through this process, the mindset of dependency can be reversed and, through sustainable development, the economic wellbeing of households improved.



ABOUT THE DIOCESE OF KONDOA

- Established in 2001 by Tanzanians, Kondoa is a relatively new and growing diocese.
- Bishop Given Gaula was priested in 1994 and became Kondoa's second diocesan Bishop in 2012. His wife Lilian is also ordained as a priest and they have three children.
- Brought up in the area and originally a church army evangelist, he established some of the first churches in the Kondoa diocese himself.
- The Bishop studied in the USA and New Zealand, where he gained a doctorate.
- The district is predominantly Muslim. It has a population of about 600,000 people, of which approximately 67,000 are Christian and 10,000 are Anglican.



- The diocese has 34 parishes, 8 deacons, 50 pastors and 97 catechists.
- It's the poorest diocese in Tanzania, with the cathedral being the only parish that is financially self-sustaining.
- Some churches meet in good buildings, some have no roofs, several have thatched roofs, a few worship in school classrooms and some worship under trees.
- Educational attainment in the area is low, and therefore the provision of theological education at the Kondoa Bible College is key to building the diocese.
- Travelling between the parishes takes a long time as there are no tarmac roads in the rural areas, and houses have no electricity or running water.

THE TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Five churches are taking part in the CCMP. The training workshops are delivered by Tanzanian nationals. Two or three people from each of the participating churches are selected to be trained as facilitators. They cascade the training into their churches, ensuring members have the skills and support they need to put the learning into practice.

Tearfund hopes to see over 2,000 people directly benefiting from the process (members of the churches who will be taking part in the programme) and thousands more indirectly benefiting as churches act as a catalyst for change in their communities.



A 5-STAGE TRAINING PROCESS

Over the course of the programme, the facilitators will guide churches and communities through the training process:

1 Church awakening	Bible studies motivate the church to understand its role for a holistic ministry that addresses people's spiritual and physical needs – thus truly becoming 'salt and light' in their community.
2 Church and community description	Churches engage with their immediate community to help them assess the general situation they are in and start to make plans for the future.
3 Information gathering	Churches and communities are equipped with the right tools to acquire detailed information about all aspects of their lives and make informed decisions about the changes they want to make.
4 Information analysis	Facilitators are supported to break down the information they have gathered so they can easily understand what it is telling them about their situation and record it as a baseline.
5 Decision making	Churches and communities use the baseline information to envisage a better future and take action to change their situation. This includes prioritising needs, setting goals, creating action plans, determining performance indicators and implementing good monitoring and evaluation practices.



"Church and community transformation is based on the word of God. It draws from biblical roots – every part of the process comes from bible studies"

THE IMPACT OF THE TRAINING

In 2017, a team from St James' Church travelled to Tanzania to visit churches taking part in the CCMP in the Diocese of Mpwapwa (funded by St Stephens Church in Tonbridge).

The team heard from pastors, community leaders and individuals how the training has brought hope, built self-esteem and empowered people. It has impacted people at all levels – spiritually, economically, socially and intellectually.

Personal faith has grown as a result of a deeper understanding of who we are in God's perspective and in relationship with each other.

Church congregations have grown and giving has increased. Churches are more active and are making a positive difference within their communities.

People's confidence has increased; they are determined to stand on their own to face their challenges, rather than waiting for or relying on aid from others. It has changed their outlook and opened their minds to using the resources around them properly - increasing their wellbeing and reducing poverty.





Examples of this include:

- Farmers are using their time more productively between harvests to grow a wider variety of crops
- Individuals are using water from nearby rivers and ponds to irrigate their own vegetable plots
- Other activities include building new wells, bee-keeping, animal-keeping, brick-making, extracting salt from sand and using local clay to make cooking pots
- Communities are making improvements to houses, schools and churches.



SEEING LIVES TRANSFORMED



PRAY, ACT, GIVE

We thank God that we have this exciting opportunity to develop a personal relationship with Christians in Tanzania, and put our faith into action by directing our financial support to Tearfund's CCMP.



We will be sharing regular updates and prayer points with church members and there will be the opportunity to join a church visit. This will give you the chance to get to know the people you are supporting personally and see for yourselves the impact the training is making.

To ensure that the programmes Tearfund oversees are cost effective and significant, and follow sustainable development practices, working on a project together only becomes viable if we support a significant portion of the project. Some of the funding will come from existing church income, but we need to raise £10,000 to £15,000 per year for an initial three-year period. This might seem a large amount, but is achievable when we commit together.

The more we fund raise and invest, the more people we'll see lifted out of material and spiritual poverty through the help of Tearfund and the churches in Kondoa.

You can help by:

- Joining us in regular prayer for the diocesan team and all our Christian brothers and sisters in Kondoa
- Using your voice to speak up for people living in poverty and plan a fundraising activity or event to raise money
- Considering prayerfully how you can contribute financially, by making either a single donation, or a regular donation for one, two or three years.

Cheques for single donations should be made payable to St James' Church and placed in the regular church collection in an envelope marked Tanzania.

You can set up a standing order with your bank (Sort code: 08-92-99, Account name: St James Church, Account number: 65182264, Reference: Tanzania) or fill in a pledge form at the back of the church and we will send you a standing order form. Please ensure you have claimed gift aid if you are eligible.

Non-church members can make donations by visiting the Diocese of Kondoa page at www.connected.tearfund.org/partners/tanzania

MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Connected Church website at www.connected.tearfund.org/partners/tanzania where you can view all the recent updates for the project on the Diocese of Kondoa featured page.

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References

1. Church and Community Mobilisation in Africa. Tearfund 2017.
2. Church and Community Transformation in the Diocese of Kondoa. Tearfund 2017.

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Photos taken during St James' 2017 trip to Kondoa, or supplied by the diocese.



