

Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera 2021 : Supporting key workers

Help subsistence farmers survive the climate emergency

The Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP) changes mindsets. It gives people the skills and motivation to become self-sufficient and lift themselves out of poverty.

Subsistence farmers have been taught to:

- diversify and plant new crops
- plant drought-tolerant varieties
- cultivate in ways to make the most of limited rain
- build rainwater tanks using local materials.

CCMP planted over 350,000 trees in Kagera last year, helping to address the problem of deforestation. Trees also provide a source of income for individuals to improve their homes and send children to school.

Local people have been trained to continue the work of CCMP in their own areas.

We have supported CCMP for four years. With our help they can continue to transform lives.



Help the Diocesan Hospital secure its future and care for its people

Murgwanza Hospital was established in the Diocese of Kagera to bring vital healthcare to the people of the region. To secure its future, it needs to employ specialist doctors and become a referral hospital. Desperately sick patients will no longer have to endure a six-hour road trip over the bumpy, dusty red roads to the nearest referral hospital.

Three doctors from Murgwanza are undertaking further study to acquire the specialist skills needed.

Here is Dr Christian Ruzige. We're supporting him for a three year Master's course in Surgery. Dr Christian is a local man with a real love for Kagera. He wrote "Your donations will help the poorer through my hands. With God's help hopefully there will be healing."

Amen to that!



Help priests lead their people out of poverty

During the pandemic we have seen churches here work hard to address both practical and spiritual needs in their communities. This echoes the vision of the church in Kagera, to enable 'Life in its fullness.'

Priests need good training to teach and lead their communities. They:

- establish and support teams of evangelists and lay leaders
- farm church land to provide income
- build new churches to reach growing congregations
- encourage and lead the work of CCMP.

Our support can help in two important ways.

Priests and evangelists need training to meet new government requirements that all local leaders have formal qualifications. More staff and new buildings are needed at Kagera Christian Theological College.

Out in the parishes there are long distances to travel to visit congregations. Motorbikes are needed to cover the difficult, hilly terrain.



St Edmundsbury and Ipswich has been working together with Kagera Diocese for over 25 years. Through the link we:

- develop friendships and understanding of each other's lives and experiences
- pray for each other
- grow in faith as we learn from one another
- share our resources because of our friendship.

Kagera, in north west Tanzania, is a beautiful region, mostly of steep, hilly savannah country. It's poor and remote. 70% of its 1 million people are subsistence farmers living on less than £1 a day. Malaria and HIV/AIDS are major problems. Parts of Kagera have some of the highest under-five mortality rates in the country. Lack of education and low capital investment in the area has led to a perception of poverty being the norm and a culture of dependency. Prices of food and other essentials have soared during the Covid-19 pandemic, so life is harder than ever.

The Bishops' Lent Appeal this year will support key workers in Kagera including farmers, doctors and priests. The vision of Kagera Diocese is 'Life in its fullness' (John 10:10) and through the link we can help them achieve it.

A message from Bishop Mike



"We are learning so much from our partner diocese of Kagera about mission and Christian life, about passion for the gospel, generosity of spirit and intense prayerfulness.

"How can we support Kagera? We know well how important key workers are from our own experience in 2020 with Covid-19 - here's a great opportunity to support some key workers in our partner diocese."

Sending your Lent Appeal donation to Kagera

Pay online at cofesuffolk.org/bishops-lent-appeal

Or pay by Bank Transfer (BACS) using:

Sort Code: 16-22-17 Account No: 12190112
Name: St Edmundsbury and Ipswich DBF No 2
Please quote reference: Kagera Lent

Or you can send a cheque by post to:

Diocesan Accountant,
St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler St, Ipswich, IP1 1UQ
Please make your cheque payable to St Eds & Ips DBF and write 'Kagera Lent Appeal' on the back.

Make your donation worth 25% more at no extra cost to you.

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can use Gift Aid to make your donations go further. We can claim 25p tax on every £1 that you give and it won't cost you a penny more - all you need to do is complete the form below and send it to the address above.



I authorise St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Board of Finance to treat:

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I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid reclaimed on all my donations then it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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2021 Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera

Supporting key workers in Kagera

