



Hope, Growth and Partnership in Kondoa

KONDOA COMPANIONSHIP GROUP | ANNUAL GET TOGETHER 2026

This report summarises key updates from the 2026 Annual Get Together, including ministry growth, current challenges, and the impact of support across the Diocese of Kondoa.

Bishop Given's Visit to the UK

Churches from across the Diocese of Rochester had the privilege of hearing from Bishop Given during his visit to the UK in March. The gathering, held at St Michael's and All Angels in Wilmington, was a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships, share news and reflect on the deepening partnership between the two dioceses.

We began the meeting by singing "*What a Friend We Have in Jesus.*" Bishop Given reflected that, just as the hymn speaks of our friendship with Christ, the companionship between Rochester and Kondoa is also a friendship that helps us journey together towards Jesus.

The Rochester-Kondoa Partnership.

Last year, supporters across the Diocese of Rochester gave more than **£100,000** to Kondoa ministry. Funding was divided broadly equally between diocesan priorities and parish partnerships.

Thanks to your faithful generosity, churches, schools, and community programmes across Kondoa continue to grow and serve people in practical and life-changing ways.

Diocesan support included theological education, office staffing, a drought-resistant seed project, the Church and Community Mobilisation Programme, child sponsorship, water improvements at the primary school, construction of the secondary school, and day-to-day running costs.

Parish support included land purchase, church and pastors' house construction, clergy support, motorbikes, and musical equipment. These projects grew out of strong relationships between partner parishes in Rochester and Kondoa.

This support has enabled the diocese not only to grow, but also to respond faithfully to significant social, economic, and environmental challenges.



Annual Get Together on 21 March 2026.



Diocesan Growth and Ongoing Ministry Challenges

Bishop Given described himself first and foremost as an evangelist bishop, committed to sharing the Gospel and encouraging others in their faith. He also emphasised his open-door policy, ensuring that clergy and lay people throughout the diocese can always approach him for support and guidance.

The diocese now includes forty-eight parishes served by seventy-four clergy, with around 26,000 Anglicans living in a Muslim context.

The bishop highlighted two key challenges:

- How Christians can clearly demonstrate the Gospel through their daily lives and witness.
- How to support Muslims who convert to Christianity. Converts may face rejection from their families and even lose access to land and livelihoods. In these difficult circumstances, the Church continues to offer belonging, compassion, and the hope of Christ to those who risk so much to follow Him.



Teaching staff and students at the start of the academic year in February 2026.

Strengthening the **Bible College** remains a priority. Although many clergy have been ordained through ministry experience, there is a growing need for ongoing theological training, especially in teaching God's Word. Support for staff, books and Swahili textbooks is therefore vital for the Church's future growth.

Climate change remains a serious threat to food security in the region. Clergy serve voluntarily and support themselves through farming on land provided by the Church.

At the time of the meeting, the diocese was facing a serious hunger crisis after poor rainfall led to widespread crop failure. In response to the Hunger Appeal, donors in Rochester raised **over £11,000**, helping pastors' families and enabling churches to care for vulnerable people in their communities.

Community Programmes, Schools and Local Impact

The **Church & Community Mobilisation Programme** plays a key role in diocesan life, combining evangelism, discipleship, and self-reliance. Through savings groups, small business training and practical support, people are learning new skills, growing in confidence, supporting their families, and building hope for the future. Christians and Muslims are also working together more closely in daily life.

The **Women's Empowerment Programme** helps young women gain practical skills such as sewing, jewellery-making, and baking, enabling them to earn an income, support their families and look to the future with renewed hope.



This woman in Soya Parish used a savings group loan to buy a sewing machine to set up her business.

St Peter and St Paul's Pre-Primary and Primary School serves around four hundred pupils and achieved an impressive fourth place in the National League Table.

- Recent developments include a computer room, a new well, and a greener environment with some food grown on site.
- There are also hopes to improve the outdoor play areas and buy additional equipment.
- The new boarding house has been completed, and funds are now needed to finish and furnish the interior before it can open for pastors' children who live too far away to travel daily.



The new boarding house for pastors' children.

Your support is helping children from different faith backgrounds learn together in safety, friendship, and mutual respect, while receiving an excellent education.

At the **St Peter and St Paul's Secondary School**, a new security fence has been completed around the dormitories.

The school's full opening has been delayed until January 2027, when it hopes to welcome around eighty pupils. In the meantime, the facilities are being used for English preparation classes, and recruitment is under way for students preparing for pastoral ministry.

Strengthening the Diocese for Mission

Diocesan administration currently takes place in former classrooms at the Bible College. Construction has begun on a new office complex beside the Cathedral, supported by the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe in Ireland, which also has a companionship link with Kondoa.

These offices will give the diocese a stronger identity and a more visible Christian presence in the community. They are expected to open later this year or next.

Continuing the Journey Together

Despite financial pressures, environmental challenges and the realities of ministry in a minority context, the Diocese of Kondoa continues to grow in faith, vision and commitment to sharing the Gospel.

Through your prayers, encouragement and generosity, lives are being transformed. Thank you for supporting Bishop Given and the people of Kondoa as this partnership continues to grow.

