



## Our friendship with



## Bereko, Tanzania

This tree of friendship was planted in 2005 and is flourishing, as is our friendship!

### St Andrew's, Bereko

Bereko is a small village in the northern part of the Diocese of Kondoia. The church is pastored by The Rev Richard Suki who is also Rural Dean and is responsible for overseeing other parishes. Due to the size of the area, our first step was to buy an off road motorbike for the pastor.

The small church of Bereko had no building and so we helped them build a church which was later called St Andrew's, Bereko. The church family in Bereko produced drawings, made bricks and managed the construction and we sent funds. St Andrew's Bereko was completed in 2010.



The pastor's house was very small and in a bad state. Snakes were coming in through holes in the wall and the floors flooded in the rains! So, again, in partnership with the church family in Bereko, we helped with the building of a new pastor's house. This was officially opened by Bishop James of Rochester in July 2013 during a visit to Tanzania.



Teams from St Andrew's have visited Bereko four times since 2007. Rev'd Bryan Knapp also attended the consecration of Bishop Given Gaula in 2012 and Bishop James visited Kondoia in 2013.

### So what is Bereko like?

- It has a population of about 4,000 and is 4,000ft up in the mountains, on the Rift Valley
- It is a largely Muslim community with a small Catholic convent (where we stay) and a small Anglican Church family.

### Kondoia Diocese

Kondoia is a new diocese, established since 2001. The Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Given Gaula, was installed in 2012. His wife Lilian was the first woman in Tanzania to be ordained.



Kondoia has 6 deaneries and 31 ministers. The faith mix is 95% Muslim, 5% Christian (mainly Roman Catholic).

Kondoia is the poorest diocese in Tanzania and has the lowest educational attainment. The villages have no electricity, running water or tarmac roads. The main Cape Town to Cairo road runs through the Diocese and is being tarmacked

The countryside is beautiful and includes the Rift Valley, Maasai Steppe, Kilimanjaro foothills and dry plains.

### Links between secondary schools

Mascalls teachers and students have visited Bereko Secondary School four times since 2008. They have provided computers, decorated classrooms and built friendships between students.



Mascalls teachers have taught in Bereko Secondary School and run seminars for teachers on latest teaching practices.

**Links between primary schools.**

Bereko Primary School has 1,600 pupils. Laurensia Mallya, head teacher and Faith Msema, a teacher and church leader visited Paddock Wood in 2008. Pupils and parents from Paddock Wood



Primary School have sent hundreds of good quality but outgrown school uniforms to Bereko children. The children on both schools have written

letters and made friendship bracelets for each other.

Paddock Wood Primary School teachers have visited Bereko in 2007 and 2013.



**Other community links**

Others that have supported the friendship include Waitrose, Woodfalls and Paddock Wood Football Club. We have also received support in bringing back palm crosses made in Bereko Deanery, which we sell on their behalf. This photo shows nearly 2,000 being presented to us in 2013.



Football kits were donated which now provide the black and white strip of Bereko FC.

**Formal friendship between our Town Councils**

Our Town Councils signed a formal friendship agreement in October 2012 at a church service which included Bishop Given Gaula and the Deputy High Commissioner of Tanzania.



Bereko town elders showing us around their town in 2013



**Both communities**

We thank God for the way that our relationship is growing and deepening, between our churches, our communities and also how within Bereko and Paddock Wood it had brought the church closer to our communities. This leaflet describes how this is happening in Paddock Wood and in Bereko, the mainly Muslim community welcomes us and appreciates the work that Rev'd Richard Suki does to bring support to the community of Bereko.

The photo shows medicines being donated to the dispensary nurse in 2013.



Our friendship is deepening over the years and we are honoured to be welcomed as family when we visit.

We keep in frequent contact, mainly by text and telephone and support and encourage each other in our prayers.



We are materially rich  
They are rich in faith and in joy.

We thank God for all His gifts and especially for our friendship.

The Bereko Committee comprises representatives from St Andrews, the Town Council, Paddock Wood Primary School and Mascalls Secondary School.



If you would like to know more about the work of the link or get involved please contact:

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**Bwana asifiwe!**

Praise the Lord!

