



SHARING SKILLS
CHANGING LIVES

Christian Engineers in Development

Newsletter No. 122 February 2026

About CED	2	Water for Amani School, Pande, Tanzania	7
From the Chair of the Exec.	3	Beyond CED in Kavumu, Rwanda	9
Give Us Your Views and Ideas!	3	CED Member Rob Hoy Recognised	10
CED Open Day	4	Give Thanks for the Past by Helping Fund the Future	12
CED Moves to Microsoft Valley Tank Kikatsi, Uganda	5 6		

Kikatsi Valley Tank under
construction

**SHARING SKILLS
CHANGING LIVES**



About CED

Christian Engineers in Development (CED) is a Christian professional consultancy service dedicated to development work with overseas communities, and through service, to give witness to the Christian faith. Operations usually comprise of a tri-partite arrangement between a developing country organisation, a funding agency and CED providing technical assistance. CED responds to various requests for assistance. Improved water supply is the most frequent but by no means the only request. CED promotes self-help with the maximum use of local resources.

CED's income comes primarily from grants for projects together with donations from churches, trusts, members and supporters. CED is not a funding agency and therefore cannot directly fund major projects but it can, and often does, fund preliminary investigations for potential projects.

CED is managed by an Executive Committee overseen by a Board of Trustees, all of whom give their services voluntarily. Membership of CED is open to any person who is professionally qualified, supports the Aims, accepts the Statement of Faith, supports the activities of CED in any way, or serves as an employee or volunteer, both in the UK and overseas. Becoming a Supporter of CED is open to any person or group that supports the Aims, and wishes to be kept informed of CED matters. Anyone wishing to become a Member or Supporter should contact the Secretary.

Newsletter

The newsletter is published twice annually. We would be delighted to provide additional copies for friends, colleagues, church book stands etc. Please contact ian@ced.org.uk and let us know how many you would like. The newsletter can also be downloaded from the CED website.

The editor would be happy to receive contributions for the next newsletter. Please send to ian@ced.org.uk

PrayerPoints

Copies of our monthly prayer bulletin are available by e-mail or post. Please request a copy by email to pray@ced.org.uk or by writing to the Secretary.

Privacy Statement

For administrative and mailing purposes we hold your name and contact details in our records. They will not be given to any other person or organisation. If you prefer not to receive publicity and information literature, then please inform the CED Secretary.

CED is a Registered Charity No 293734 and a Limited Company No 1980353
Registered Office: Lydia Mill, Lydia Bridge,
South Brent, TQ10 9JL

For enquiries, please contact:

Mrs B. Brighthouse, Company Secretary
Lydia Mill, Lydia Bridge
South Brent, TQ10 9JL
Email: admin@ced.org.uk

From the Chair of the Exec.

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2026.

I was reminded today of Paul's words to the church in Philippi:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 1:3-6)

Paul knew the importance of partnership in mission – having shared beliefs and aims, and being committed to mutual support and encouragement. Partnership was a central feature of the early church – often scattered physically, but united in purpose.

Partnership is important to CED too. Composed of individual members who are scattered physically, we nevertheless are united by a common purpose (*- to demonstrate the love of Christ by enabling Christians with engineering and allied skills to help the poorest communities overseas*); we are a partnership. We know from long experience that for development to have a lasting impact, it has to be done in partnership with local communities and organisations.



But partnership takes effort. Ask anyone who is married, and they will agree! As individual members, we can look for ways to encourage one another and support one another. As an organisation, we can look for ways to support our partner organisations abroad – ways in which we can build their capacity, and encourage them in their mission. And in doing that, we will find that the benefits flow in both directions!

Yours in partnership,

Jonathan Appleby

Give Us Your Views and Ideas!

In May this year, Directors and members of the Exec Committee will be meeting together for a weekend, to consider CED's strategy for the next five years. We last did this in February 2020, just before lockdown, and a lot has happened since then – especially in the world of development. As we prepare for that weekend, we would be interested to hear from our members - if you have any thoughts about CED's strategy for the future. In particular, we'd be interested to hear your views on the

following areas; communications and publicity, funding, partnerships (both in UK and abroad), capacity building.

So we'd welcome written submissions; please send them to jappleby.ced@gmail.com, to arrive before 8th May. Thank you!

Jogathan Appleby

CED Open Day

I found CED's 40th anniversary AGM, on Saturday 4th October, to be a great opportunity to look back at what the charity has achieved since its launch in 1985 and to hear from some of CED's longest serving members. My dad, Peter Stern, was one of the founders, and I grew up hearing stories about how he and colleagues like Roy Calvocoressi, John Holloway and Dick Waller got CED off the ground and the early projects they supported. Dad spent his life working in developing countries, so setting up CED felt like an extension of his career, though also something he cared about deeply as a practical demonstration of his faith. He remained involved with CED for the rest of his life, and inspired me to start my own career in international development, which led me to live and work in Afghanistan and Ethiopia. So CED's 40th birthday was a poignant moment for me.

It was also an opportunity to hear about the incredible impact the organisation has made over the years. My mum, Judy Stern, spoke about CED's early aims, and how it turned from a vision into reality. She read from some of the early newsletters which showed the many challenges faced by the founding members, from building support and raising money, to getting projects delivered. Barbara Brighthouse gave an excellent overview of CED's impact on the ground. A video from Bishop George Bagamuhunde of Kigezi, Uganda, described the difference CED projects have made to his community "where the water is still flowing", which really brought it all to life. Brian Darling talked about his experience working on the



At the end of the day we enjoyed a guided walk around New Malden

CHIPS project in Uganda, building wells for hundreds of villages. He explained the importance of thinking not just about the technical challenges of a project, but also the opportunities for building peace within communities. Ian Rankin shared the fun and challenges he had faced as a previous Chair of CED, from raising money to leading projects in Pakistan and Tanzania.

We also heard from Angus Armstrong about the project he led, supported by CED, to rebuild Zanzibar Cathedral - built in 1873 on the site of Zanzibar's largest slave market. The stone construction, and immensely heavy roof, were pushing the walls apart and creating dangerous cracks in the structure - but with ingenuity, perseverance and a £1.99 laser pen, Angus led a team to save the cathedral for future generations.



The day started with worship

I had to leave at lunchtime so sadly didn't get to listen to all the speakers, but the most powerful message from the examples I heard was encapsulated by the great anthropologist Margaret Mead who famously said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." That was self-evident from the many wonderful projects that CED members have delivered over the years – by raising money, sharing expertise, persevering against the odds, and demonstrating their faith through practical action.

Tim Stern

The editor continues...

After an enjoyable lunch the afternoon's theme was "looking forwards". Our new trustee, Sam Kayaga, introduced himself and then a group from Engineering Ministries International (EMI) told us a little bit about their organisation and we thought about ways that the two



organisations might collaborate. Jonny Burns introduced Microsoft365 which CED is starting to use (see below) then we split into 3 groups for discussion.

The day wound up with a 40th Anniversary cake followed by a guided walk and an evening meal.

This was the first AGM that I've managed to attend since Covid and I really enjoyed meeting many friends. If you missed it, there's always next year! It is likely to be in early October and is a great way to get to know people you only read about occasionally in the newsletter or PrayerPoints. If you hate travel but have a wonderful church, let us know—the venue is yet to be decided; we could come to you!

Ian Rankin.

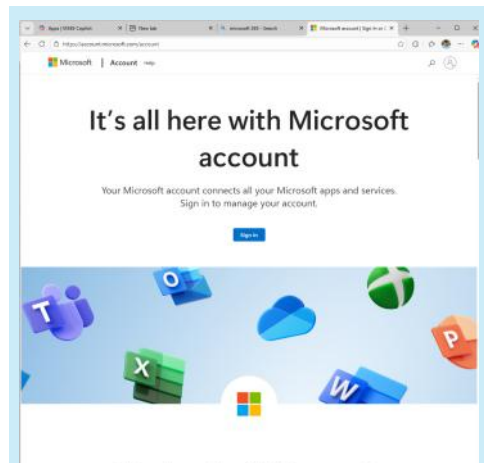
CED Moves to Microsoft

As mentioned on our Open Day back in October, CED members now have access to Microsoft365 through their Nonprofit initiative! This will mean that eventually each CED member will be able to access project folders and make use of various Microsoft packages - including apps such as Microsoft Teams.

The previous system was to store project files on Dropbox and photos on Flickr – this worked well. However, as we were starting to max out our Dropbox free storage limit, we decided to explore other options and came across the Microsoft Nonprofit Initiative. This initiative is designed to enable charities and non-profits to make use of Microsoft technology to operate more effectively. CED was given licences to cover our membership base with some to spare.

Currently in the background Ian and Barbara have been busy setting up new SharePoint pages dedicated to various projects and migrating files onto the new system – and all being well, you will receive login information over the coming months.

Jonny Burns



Valley Tank in Kikatsi, Uganda

Introduction

Funding was finally in place for the Kikatsi valley tank early last Summer but we had to delay construction until December 2025. A trip was arranged to coincide with the commencement and it incorporated visits to previously constructed Valley Tanks within the North Ankole Diocese.

Kikatsi

Kikatsi is in the North Ankole Diocese. It is about an hour's drive from Rushere, the Cathedral town. It is situated in very hilly and rolling countryside. It sits on a crest with valleys either side. It has a sizable trading centre with schools, including a secondary school with boarding facilities for students. The parish are in the process of building a larger church. The Archdeacon oversees Kikatsi and 3 or 4 other parishes. There is a military disused valley tank to the Southwest of the village. The new valley tank is to the north and close to existing locally dug "tanks".

Site visits were made on three consecutive days. The contractor had excavated a large part of the tank by the first visit but the level and slope control setting-out was insufficient. By the third visit, in the afternoon, most of the bulk excavation had been completed but there was a great deal of trimming remaining and the bund

walls had not been compacted or shaped. Detailed information was given to the contractor to enable him to satisfactorily complete the work.

On different days we were accompanied by various representatives from the parish. The Archdeacon very kindly invited us for a snack after our visit on the third day.

They, the parish, were already talking about having a solar electric pump to lift the water from the Tank to locations within the village. We await their proposals and request, if any!

Katete and Rwetamu

Valley Tanks had previously been constructed at both of these locations. Katete was the earliest one built in 2012 at Isaiah, the school developed by Faith Aguhu who once spoke at a CED Open Day. The tank is functioning well, though will always need regular maintenance, particularly in the collection pond. An alternative water trough was being used and the water was easily being diverted into it. We met Faith and she was enthusiastic about the success of the tank.

Rwetamu is a more recent construction, completed in February 2018. We met the parish priest who accompanied us to the tank. The Valley Tank has been functioning well except for the hand pump which was in need of repair.



Kikatsi earthworks



Diocesan Secretary Rev John Mark, myself, Philip Tibenderama, CED Uganda Engineer

Recently, a couple of months ago, the parish had installed a solar powered pump for lifting the water to the village. Details of the pump, installations and efficiency are awaited from the parish.

The visit was a success, enabling the various tanks to be assessed and monitored.

On two mornings there had been overnight rain which lasted until about midday. The drive to Rwetamu was especially challenging, involving driving through impromptu fords and streams.

I am grateful to Philip for his driving, local knowledge and support throughout the trip.

Ian Bell

Water for Amani School, Pande, Tanzania

The tale continues...

In our last newsletter I introduced the CED water project at Amani School, describing the disappointing bore well (dug before CED became involved) and the decision to dig a network of shallow wells. The diagnosis was that the borewell had pierced through the layers of sweet water into a salty aquifer affected by proximity to the sea. Shallow wells would tap into aquifers fed by rainfall. CED's Malcolm Anderson was able to propose sites for the new wells, although the local well digger had his own ideas so compromise was expedient. Five successful new wells have now been dug (plus 4 that had to be abandoned before completion) and to date two are pumping water into the elevated tanks built on a large termite hill behind the school. Pumps will soon be fitted to two further tanks and the school should then

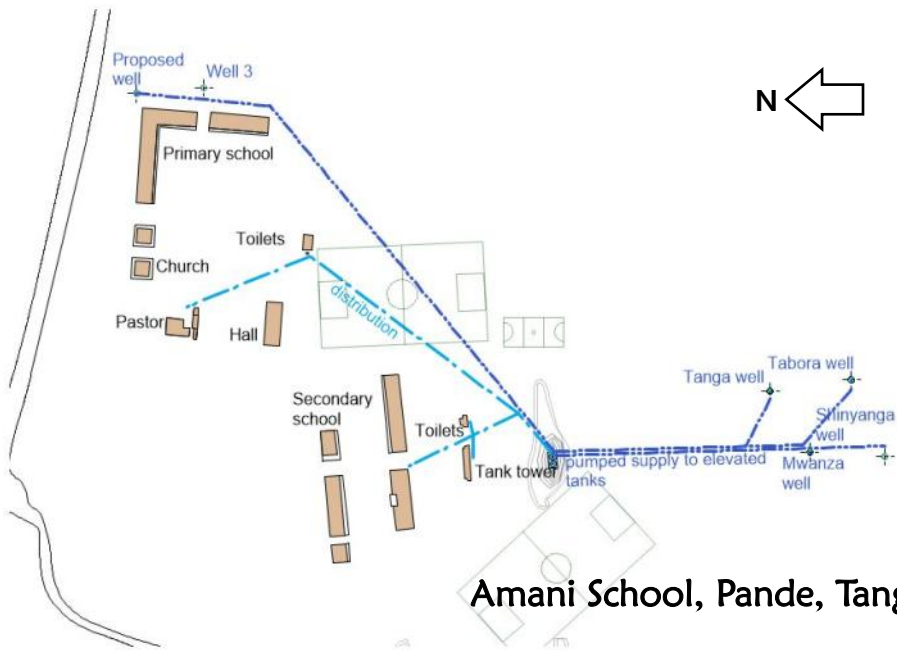
have more than adequate water for its immediate needs. The school is growing and the final two wells will be needed eventually.

Of course, with wells there are no guarantees and, disappointingly, one of the two wells that is pumping is producing water having a strange taste. The chemicals in it are interfering with pupils' chemistry experiments so we may need to find another way to supply the laboratory.

We are hoping that Malcolm will be able to visit again to get to the bottom of the problem. This is dependent on Hope Story, our partner, funding the visit. An issue that arises is that, though CED members give their time freely, expenses can be significant. The school has a choice between making the best of its sub-standard supply and finding a better solution



10,000 litre water tanks on 4m tower



Amani School, Pande, Tanga

with an expert. The issue is quality. Continuing with the existing supply would mean that the school is likely to use more water from the municipal supply, especially for cooking and drinking, and may end up not using the wells as much as they could. Quality issues are also at play in the piped distribution system. Pipes are all a size bigger than CED specified, resulting in extra cost, and are laid in very shallow underground trenches with risk of damage or electrocution from buried cables. Without constant professional supervision mistakes like these are inevitable. The local tradesmen, especially at village level, do not tend to follow established codes and often struggle to read drawings. But putting an engineer in position full time, whether local or expatriate, would probably cost more than the rest of the project. Professional wages in Tanzania are vastly greater than those of tradespeople.

On a positive note, the tank tower has been a great success, with structural design by CED Chair Colin Gibson. Whilst inspections were limited, I was able to visit and check the reinforcement prior to concreting. I enjoy the tower because people had previously said that it

was not possible to build cement tanks at height. We simply made the platform a little bigger so the masons could throw mortar around the tanks. These were the first two 10,000 litre tanks that the local tradesman has built, all reliant on his CED training in 2020.

Digging wells is not as easy as it looks. [The Global Charity Initiative](#) notes (2021) that “The International Institute of Environment and Development has estimated a figure of US\$360 million that has been spent on the construction of digging wells in Africa,... almost all of these wells are dysfunctional”. Nevertheless, we are confident that CED will complete the project, leaving the school with a valuable resource. As other articles in this newsletter testify, CED maintains links with partners so that projects continue to deliver.

Ian Rankin



Well head—the inlet pipe is to be revised to improve safety.

Beyond CED in Kavumu, Rwanda

Following the completion of the CED project at Kavumu in Rwanda, at least two UK church communities became involved in the work of Faith Centre Ministries (FCM), who were CED's partner for the duration of the project. Their support has enabled Bishop Charles Semwaga, one of the church leaders at FCM, to further his God given vision for the community in the provision of a church building and a primary school. The primary school opened on 8th September 2025.

Due to government regulations for places of worship, the church building cannot be used for worship services until soundproofing, car parking facilities and other requirements are met.

Please pray for the ongoing work of FCM as they continue to serve this rural community. It is wonderful to see their work developing beyond their partnership with CED.

A UK charity Faith Ministries Rwanda (UK) has been established to support Charles Semwaga and his vision for this community. For further information contact Andy Goodwin on faithministries21@gmail.com

Alan Michell



The church as it was 9 years ago.



The church today, with primary school attached.



Primary school with 10,000 litre rainwater tank constructed under the current CED project managed by Angus Armstrong.



Rev Ian Phillips of Crawley Baptist Church hands friendship bracelets to school children.

CED Member Rob Hoy Recognised

We were delighted to learn that CED member Rob Hoy was awarded an MBE in the recent New Year's Honours list.

“Robert Campbell Frank Hoy. Christian Engineers in Development, Solace Ministries, Faith Centred Ministries Church, the Anglican Dioceses of Cyangugu and Byumba and The Safe Water Trust. For services to Water Engineering in Rwanda.”

Many congratulations Rob!

Here Rob shares a little of what he's been up to in Rwanda - and elsewhere in East Africa.

It all started when Dr Richard Rowland and his wife Prilla, fellow members of Southover Church in Lewes, asked if I would be interested in visiting Rwanda. I had left my job working as a civil engineer for Southern Water in 2005, having decided it was now or never for pursuing my long-held but ill-defined ambition to 'work in Africa'. After completing several courses with RedR to retrain and learn the skills that would be more appropriate in my new environment, I travelled to Rwanda for the first time in January 2007, together with fifteen others from Southover Church. As well as 'doing' (I helped

build a simple house for a widow) I went to listen and observe to discern whether there was anything worthwhile I might achieve. I was immediately struck by the many children and women carrying heavy jerrycans of water and discovered what harm this causes – both physical and also social because the time spent fetching water could have been spent on other essential activities— I resolved to return to build a rainwater harvesting system.

Over the following years I visited Rwanda normally twice a year, initially to build rainwater systems for individual houses, then to design and implement systems for schools and churches with the help of a local civil engineer. Since Covid I've visited Rwanda once a year.

In 2008 I collaborated with John Griffith, developer of the Grifaid portable membrane filter, that removes solids (including viruses) larger than 0.01 micron, by testing a prototype and organising large scale field trials leading to the filter's approval by Rwanda's Bureau of Standards in 2022.

I've worked closely with (mostly Anglican) churches in all 5 Provinces to provide rainwater harvesting and Grifaid filters. Initially I used plastic tanks but now specify ferrocement



Rob and Jan Hoy



With Rwandan and Congolese students in Kamembe, 2019

construction, having been introduced to these when Alan Michell accompanied me for the first time in January 2016 and we met James Rubakisibo of RHEPI with whom Ian Rankin had worked on CED projects many years previously.

Having assisted Ian in running a ferrocement tank construction training course in Feb 2019 and then running one myself in Feb 2023, my focus in Rwanda now is to encourage beneficiaries to construct their own tanks both for the benefit of their dioceses and as a means of income generation.

I've also visited Uganda and Kenya on various water and health-related projects. Since 2023 I've made annual visits to Lubajja (near Mityana) and Buikwe (near Jinja) and (from 2024) Moroto and Karamoja Diocese (all in Uganda) as well as Kapenguria Diocese in Kenya. At Lubajja, where there is a very needy community on the shore of Lake Wamala, a pilot project, including domestic biogas plants, microflush latrines, kitchens and efficient clay ovens is nearing completion. At Buikwe and Moroto, filters have been supplied to provide safe drinking water. Following a visit to Alale (an arid region in West Pokot, NW Kenya) in January 2024 my church raised £12,000 for a borehole which I was honoured to open with huge celebrations in July last year.

Finally, although it's been too dangerous to travel there, since 2011 I've enjoyed close fellowship with many brothers and sisters in Christ from the DRC who have visited me whilst I was staying at the border town of Kamembe in Rwanda. Together we have partnered in many filter and rainwater harvesting projects in North

and South Kivu Provinces as well as some income-generating activities such as pig rearing and soap making.

Long-lasting relationships have developed over the years with a huge range of members of society in the 3 countries I've visited, mostly the neediest but also government ministers and at every level in between, have been invaluable. It has been a huge joy and privilege to serve in this way and very much supported by my wife Jan.

Rob Hoy

Rob continues to develop projects in Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda. In the past 6 months he has carried out a membrane filter refresher course in Mityana, Uganda and developed a project for biogas, microflush latrines and clay ovens. In Rwanda he's been busy with more ferrocement tanks and has been working with CED member Angus Armstrong to progress CED projects incorporating tanks and a water supply pipeline. He heads back to Africa in April this year.

Editor



Biogas digester, Lubajja, Uganda



Give Thanks for the Past by Helping Fund the Future

Christian Engineers in Development (CED) is celebrating 40 years of demonstrating the love of Christ by enabling Christians with engineering and allied skills to help the poorest communities. In short “Sharing skills, changing lives”.

During CED’s first 40 years £4.6m was raised and £4.5m spent on life changing engineering projects around the world. Whilst governments, trusts and grant making bodies have been the source of the majority of funds, CED continues to rely on its members, their churches and other supporters for voluntarily giving of their time and expertise and also their financial backing.

CED have received support from donors who will match £1 for £1 any **new** donations received during the period January to March 2026 up to £10,000.

In effect, for every gift aided £1 received during this period, CED will receive £2.50 as the matched amount is also gift aided.

Please give this prayerful consideration and encourage others to do so as well so that collectively CED can give thanks for the past 40 years and help fund the next 40.

You can donate online on CED website www.ced@org.uk via Paypal Giving or by bank transfer/standing order. Neither of these methods results in fees being charged to you or to CED.

If you choose to donate via Paypal Giving, please check the receipt e-mail you received for a button to add your Gift Aid claim and make the donation worth 25% more at no cost to you.

Alternatively, the bank transfer/standing order form above will ask you for Gift Aid information as part of the process.

Thank you for your support. Any queries please e-mail treasurer@ced.org.uk